Interview: Themba

1. : 2021-06-22
2. Time: 13:00

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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? Themba  RQ2: What is your occupation? Official  RQ3: In what capacity? Extension Officer.  RQ4: How long have you been in this position? 6 years  RQ5: What is your highest qualification? Degree  RQ6: Gender: Male  RQ7: Age: 33 | | | |
| RQ8: Are you involved with Agriparks? | | Yes |  |
| RQ9: How are you involved? | |  | I’m the extension officer at the Tshakhuma Barotta UIGC farms. The farms are designate as an Agri-hub. |
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| RQ10: How did you get involved? | |  | I’ am an employee, seconded by the UIGC which is in partnership with the community. |
| RQ11: What is the background of the Agriparks that requires them to support emerging black farmers? | |  | The Tshakhuma Barotta UIGC farms are as a result of a successful land restitution claim brought by the community. There need for national coherent transformatory policies and programmes which address the landlessness, inequality, unemployment and poverty crisis. a progressive political programme. |
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| RQ12: What policy changes influenced the establishment of Agriparks? | |  | The need for economic redistribution for all, and to grow and make connections with an increasingly international agriculture system. A widespread unified policy and programme outlining why and how we need to social the use of public services |
| RQ13: What are the present functions of Agriparks? | |  | A catalyst of change and development within the agriculture through the mass mobilisation state and corporate resources. A coordinative mechanism for district economic growth. |
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| RQ14: What are the priorities of the Agriparks? | |  | To facilitate dialogues among stakeholder to harness local development resources. Develop a comprehensive inventory of what is available and where, as well as how to utilise local resources. |
| RQ15: What are Agriparks perceived efficiencies in fulfilling their functions? | |  | Unlock existing local potential and create development opportunities for communities at the peripheries of urban centres. |
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| RQ16: What do you believe are the main success of the Agriparks? | Defining the value ecosystem and determining the terms of engagement for the various player within the value chain. | | |
| RQ17: What are the challenges, if any, that you see concerning land ownership, agriculture, and poverty alleviation? | Agriparks are still at their nascent stage, with a huge future potential if well implemented by state players. It has the possibility to unlock lack for redistribution for agriculture purpose. | | |
| RQ18: What processes are put in place to deal with the challenges? | Very little is happening to deal with the many challenges and bottlenecks within the system, it is left to the individual entities to deal with challenges. | | |
| RQ19: How are emerging black farmers identified and recruited to be part of the programs of the Agriparks? | The farmers here all beneficiaries of the restitution claim. | | |
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| RQ20: What are the main farming practices of emerging black farmers? | |  | We grow bananas, avocados and nuts. We use community labour and other equipment such as tractor and harvesters |
| RQ21: What legislative reform justified the emergence of the Agripark to provide support to emerging black farmers? | |  | The failures of restitution beneficiaries to further invest in agriculture and optimise their growth potential. |
| RQ22: Who decides on the type of support and services given to emerging black farmers? | |  | The farm plan was developed with the community involved with outside private sector institution. |
| RQ23: How are decisions communicated to emerging black farmers? | |  | The CPA plays an important part in decision making and the communication of the decision within the community. |
| RQ24: How do emerging black farmers participate in the decision-making on priorities of Agriparks? | |  | The CPA holds community meeting, here we have monthly planning meetings with detail progress reports. |
| RQ25: Are emerging black farmers given plans about the priorities of Agriparks? | |  | Yes, they are part of the process. |
| RQ26: Are women and youth benefitting from Agriparks? If so, how? | |  | The majority here is women and youth and they lead the various teams. |
| RQ27: What are the challenges of the Agriparks? How are these challenges dealt with? | |  | Resources, especially financial remain a major constraint for small-scale farmers. We need to build the capacity and skill base of community member to take control |
| RQ28: What are the successes of the Agriparks? How is success determined? | |  | We have improved the production of both bananas and avocados which sell in Joburg and Pretoria markets. Community workers receive monthly wages, this has raised moral in the village. |
| 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? | |  | Provincial government to take a proactive role in identifying and supporting emerging black farmer. |
| 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: He confirm that the student from the Tshakhuma agriculture college do their learnership programme at the farm. This is a useful for research and development reasons.