Interview: Richard

1. : 2021-06-22
2. Time: 11: 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? Richard  RQ2: What is your occupation? Lawyer  RQ3: In what capacity? Research on land and agrarian reform, tribal institution and rural development.  RQ4: How long have you been in this position? years  RQ5: What is your highest qualification? Advocate  RQ6: Gender: Male  RQ7: Age: 51 | | | |
| RQ8: Are you involved with Agriparks? | | Yes |  |
| RQ9: How are you involved? | |  | I’ve researched many land reform cases including the Tshakhuma Barotta farms. |
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| RQ10: How did you get involved? | |  | I got involved researching on land issues in the area. |
| RQ11: What is the background of the Agriparks that requires them to support emerging black farmers? | |  | For researchers involved in this field of work, land reforms have not changed the quality of life of recipients, especially economic progress and advancement of social welfare. |
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| RQ12: What policy changes influenced the establishment of Agriparks? | |  | For the state to be involved in the planning and execution of development priorities. |
| RQ13: What are the present functions of Agriparks? | |  | Agriparks are hubs for social change and local development, they are the nearest to the community and are able to respond best to their needs. |
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| RQ14: What are the priorities of the Agriparks? | |  | Agriparks serve local needs and provide rural linkages with tribal institution so as to legitimise transformation and community development. |
| RQ15: What are Agriparks perceived efficiencies in fulfilling their functions? | |  | Agripark harness community resources and capacities, especially in rural areas where such resources are communally owned. |
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| RQ16: What do you believe are the main success of the Agriparks? | Agripark are strategically located within local municipalities, they understand the priorities, this critical for planning. | | |
| RQ17: What are the challenges, if any, that you see concerning land ownership, agriculture, and poverty alleviation? | Agripark challenges are linked to funding, from this all other challenges follow like the capacity to meet their mandate. Also, the linkage with NGOs are weak, which affects delivery. | | |
| RQ18: What processes are put in place to deal with the challenges? | District official are engaging with stakeholders, I’m not sure of their success. | | |
| RQ19: How are emerging black farmers identified and recruited to be part of the programs of the Agriparks? | The farmers in this project are all beneficiaries of the restitution claim. | | |
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| RQ20: What are the main farming practices of emerging black farmers? | |  | Grow bananas, avocados and nuts. There are several community members who buy from the farm to sell at the popular street market. |
| RQ21: What legislative reform justified the emergence of the Agripark to provide support to emerging black farmers? | |  | The national restructuring of agriculture to meet the objective of industrialisation and commercialisation of small-scale farmer. |
| RQ22: Who decides on the type of support and services given to emerging black farmers? | |  | The farm plan are developed in consultation 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? | |  | The unity of purpose in Agripark is critical for the transformation of the sector. The demonstration of common purpose is a huge success on its own, especially in large communities |
| 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? | |  | NGOs play a critical role and influence policy at both national and provincial levels, it my opinion that a great role should be allocated to them. |
| 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.