Interview: DG

1. Date: 2021-02-22
2. Time: 10 pm

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | | | |
| Hello, I am Zakes Hlatshwayo, a Ph.D. candidate at UP, conducting a study on emerging black farmers’ practices and state support to them, the study is conducted in three provinces. This study aims to understand emerging black farmer practices and how they are supported by the state. Thank you for your willingness to participate. I am interested in understanding your farming practices and experience and the support you receive. 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 us 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? DG  RQ2: What is your occupation? Chief Director  RQ3: In what capacity? Manager  RQ4: How long have you been in this position? 5 years  RQ5: What is your highest qualification? Post-graduate degree  RQ6: Gender Male  RQ: 7 Age? 37 | | | | |
| RQ8: Are you involved with Agriparks? | | Yes. | |  |
| RQ9: How are you involved? | |  | | Works for the Gauteng Provincial Department of Rural Development and Land Reform. Agriculture, contributes 0,5 to the PGDP, the agricultural value chain including secondary and tertiary sectors contribute 2.3% 17.3% of to PGDP. The agriculture value chain provides agroprocessing and economic development opportunities. The Comprehensive Rural Development Programme, provide support to farmers, especially emerging black farmers in Agriparks. The provincial plan is to have an inclusive agricultural economy. Clustering of small holder agriculture produces, ensure adequate volumes and access to markets for all farmers. |
|  | | | | |
| RQ10: For how long have you been involved; how did you get involved? | |  | | I have research interests in political ecology, both urban and rural agriculture, environment and development policy, and livelihood security. Most of my studied has been undertaken in these fields. Politically, as a black person, I think a lot more is still to be done by the state and private sector to help the poor to develop. |
| RQ11: What is the background of the Agriparks that requires them to support emerging black farmers? | |  | Based on our common history, emerging black farmers in South Africa negotiate and integrate compound of marginalized identities. Agriparks guide change efforts and the need to explicitly and directly address narratives and discourse of land, agriculture, and rural development, the significance of state institutions as agents of development and change, as well as the importance of farmers’ agency in setting change. Agriparks aims to fast-track the redistribution of agricultural land, de-congest and rehabilitate over-crowded former homeland areas, and provide opportunities to the marginalized poor in rural areas. | |
|  | | | | |
| RQ12: What policy changes influenced the establishment of Agriparks? | |  | | For South Africa, the emphasis is on land reforms that result in the agendas, debates, and formations of opportunities in relation to agrarian relations and agriculture practices. Agriparks expand the thoroughness of what it means to find new and sustainable forms of active engagement within the local and global agrarian reform. |
| RQ13: What are the present functions of Agriparks? | |  | | Agripark have multiple functions and objectives defined by their location, agricultural innovation characteristically results from dynamic interactions among multitude of actors occupied in growing, processing, packaging, distributing, and consuming or using agricultural products. Agripark support and strengthen smallholder farmers with development services and provide extension services, farming advise, training, fridges storage, packaging facilities, and access to markets. |
|  | | | | |
| RQ14: What are the priorities of Agriparks? | |  | | Agriparks link land reforms and agrarian reforms, reforms incorporate agriculture structure, privatization of state-owned land, implementation of public sector reforms, and commitment to markets. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) note that rural development is crucial, not only for poverty reduction but for many other sustainable development goals. Rural Development is critical for ending hunger and improving nutrition. |
|  | |  | |  |
|  | | | | |
| RQ15: What are their perceived efficiencies in fulfilling their functions? | Agriparks are observable locus point of reference or origin, a fixed point from state measures of intervention originate. In districts, promotes Public and Private Partnerships (PPPs) opportunities, and permitting strategic interventions. | | | |
| RQ16: What do you believe are the main success of the Agriparks? | Agriparks provide community services, creating jobs, providing food to the individual and community. This includes an improved social standing and improved quality of life, supporting family and community. Self-development of the individual of the individual and group. | | | |
| RQ17: What are the challenges, if any, that you see with regard to the land ownership, agriculture and poverty alleviation? | Agriparks provide a platform for the state to meaningfully engage land ownership with black farmers, the private sector and other partners about local and global challenges. The government’s inability to dismantle the legacy of separate and unequal agriculture demonstrates the complex and intractable reproduction of systemic racial inequality in agriculture. State institution are weak and under resource at all levels, the private sector is unwilling to support the state. We need more funds to be able to correct the injustice and inequalities of apartheid. | | | |
| RQ18: What processes are put in place to deal with the challenges? | We are bound by provincial budget which limits our reach, however, we do as much as we can with the resources that we have. We invite the private sector into our meeting to come help with improvements, we have engaged civil society and academics to come and support our work. | | | |
| RQ19: How are emerging black farmers identified and recruited to be part of the programmes of the Agriparks? | We invite black farmers to district meetings, we talk to people with family gardens or those that farm on open spaces. We place advertisement in all our building and have tv announcements. | | | |
|  | | | | |
| RQ20: What are the main farming practices of emerging black farmers? | |  | | Most are rural farmers with family plots and already farming, other are urban backyard farmers. Most produce what they are themselves more likely to eat and sell the surplus. Most use own or family labour, sometimes bring in temporary workers. |
| RQ21: What legislative reform justified the emergence of the Agripark to provide support to emerging black farmers? | |  | | South Africa’s post-apartheid land, agriculture, and rural development programmes include the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP), Growth, Employment and Growth (GEAR), Accelerated Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa (ASGISA), National Development Plan (NDP) and CRDP. There is a need to close the widening gap between those who have means and those who lack means of development. |
| RQ22: Who decides on the type of support and services given to emerging black farmers? | |  | | Over and above the policy framework, consultative meetings are held with local stakeholders, including councillor, business people and the community. The results of the meeting are captured in the local development plans. |
|  | |  | |  |
| RQ23: How are decisions communicated to emerging black farmers? | |  | | There are regular meetings, the plans are also available from the district local economic development units. |
| RQ24: How do emerging black farmers participate in the decision-making on priorities of Agriparks? | |  | | Farmers participate in the consultative meetings and in the monthly meetings held on site. |
| RQ25: Are emerging black farmers given plans about the priorities of Agriparks? | |  | | Yes, these are available to anyone as public documents. |
|  | | | | |
| RQ26: Are women and youth benefitting from Agriparks? If so, how? | |  | | Women and youth as the most marginalised groups are prioritised, we given them preference when decisions are taken. |
| RQ27: What are the challenges of the Agriparks? How are these challenges dealt with? | |  | | It is mainly an issue of budgets, we have to plan according to what we have. More often, we discuss on our priorities this helps us respond to the needs. |
| RQ28: What are the successes of the Agriparks? How is success determined? | |  | | We have been able to bring farmers over the years and provided them with free land, water, facilities and other services. We receive monthly reports from the farmers which show their progress. |
| 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? | |  | | I’m convinced that the Agriparks, if fully funded and supported by the state and private sector will help with development of small-scale farmers. |
| RQ30: RQ16: How did you hear about Covid-19?  RQ31: How did Covid 19 affect you?  RQ32: How did you respond to government’s lockdown, did you benefit? | |  | | We had a government memo informing us of the outbreak and the intervention measures.  I worked from home, I came back as soon as we were allowed to.  No, I did not benefit from the Covid-19 relief grant |

Comments and Observation: Used Zoom, the interview revealed several diverse and reasonably linked beliefs of state support in Agriparks, reflecting an array of different ways in which Agriparks participants perceive and experience services in the context of their engagement within Agripark activities, use of the infrastructure and support services.