



**Social Change and Community Works in rural eMaxesibeni, Alfred Nzo district
in the South Africa's Eastern Cape**

BY

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DECLARATION

I, Abongile Pindo 21571342, declare that this thesis under the following topic, Social Change and Community Works in rural eMaxesibeni, Alfred Nzo district in South Africa's Eastern Cape, is submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Development Studies at the University of Pretoria. This thesis is my own work, and it has never been submitted for a degree at any institution of higher learning. I did not plagiarise and correctly referenced people's work and ideas that I have included in this thesis.

ETHICS APPROVAL STATEMENT

I, Abongile Pindo, have received full ethics approval to conduct this thesis and have adhered to all the prescribed ethics by the University of Pretoria Code of Ethics for Researchers and the Policy Guidelines.

Name and Surname: Abongile Pindo

Signature  Date: 01 August 2024



DEDICATION

This PhD is dedicated to no one else but myself. I have outdone and astounded myself; I never thought I would be a PhD holder, let alone overcome the challenges of being a PhD candidate, but here I am. Abongile Pindo, thank you for the hard work and perseverance you showed. This indicates that “you can do anything you put your mind to and be anything you wish to be”. I will be the first Dr in my family with no child, I kept this promise to myself. The true meaning of breaking generational curse.



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ABSTRACT

Rural development in South Africa is lagging despite gaining independence and democracy in 1994. Eastern Cape province is one of the provinces where issues of service delivery, rural development, and corruption are prevalent. For example, the triple challenges such as poverty, unemployment and inequality are still prevalent, especially in rural areas; this is because before democracy, many rural areas were divided into Homelands, and this was because of the colonial laws of segregation that isolated rural communities from the economy of the country. The study focuses on social change and community work in Alfred Nzo District eMaxesibeni. the Alfred Nzo District is one of the most poverty-stricken and poorest rural areas in the Eastern Cape Province. There is a lack of scholarly research on the status of rural development policies and the impact of the development programmes introduced. This thesis research critically analyses the promised social change and the efficacy of the Community Work Programme (CWP) on rural livelihoods, with a particular focus on the agriculture sector, in terms of its contribution to tackling the issues of social change and rural development. The study sought to address how CWP homesteads and communal gardens contribute to social change in the Eastern Cape, eMaxesibeni under Alfred Nzo District, and what the successes and challenges of the CWP agriculture sector in bringing about social change and sustainable development. Previous rural and community development studies have explored and investigated rural development issues and how rural development programmes such as CWP and the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) contribute to issues of unemployment and poverty. From the previous research, it is evident that these development programmes have provided an employment safety net and fought poverty as beneficiaries received stipends; however, there are limited skills development and training for permanent employment should participants want to exit the programmes. Some of the previous studies focused on quantitative data. They failed to engage with beneficiaries of the programmes through interviews where the researcher can gain in-depth information about the programme, and very limited studies have followed several methods of data sources and samples. Therefore, this

study aimed to assess the effectiveness of social change projects, which are the CWP agriculture sector and the CWP homestead and communal food gardens contributing to addressing poverty and unemployment and achieving sustainable agriculture development in eMaxesibeni, Alfred Nzo district and to explore the service delivery and factors that hinder the successful implementation of development programmes in the Eastern Cape and develop strategies to achieve the promised social change through CWP gardens projects. The study is significant as the study fills the gap in previous research and also applies three qualitative methods when conducting the study, and also ensures that the beneficiaries, site supervisors and government officials involved in this CWP agriculture sector programme participate in this study. Growing up in the Alfred Nzo district, I witnessed its underdeveloped nature and migration issues due to a lack of opportunities and social change. This experience motivated me to pursue a development studies degree and this research. This background afforded me to critically explore the development programmes implemented for rural livelihood and their contribution. The study is underpinned by the work of the Social Change chair, Gary Minkley, who wrote about the development and social change state of the Eastern Cape and the livelihoods of rural areas. Kate Philip's (development strategist) CWP and rural development work were critical in shaping this study. This study was conducted using a qualitative approach and methods, where a case study design was followed, and data was collected through semi-structured interviews, field observations and the retrieval of archives. I interviewed 02 government officials, 41 beneficiaries of CWP and Five site supervisors. Extensive analyses of government reports, newspaper articles and IDPs were retrieved from archives.

Even though obtaining permission from several officials who are the community and programme gatekeepers was challenging, speaking the local language, isiXhosa, worked well for me as it fostered effective communication and established rapport between myself, the gatekeepers, and the participants.

One of the main study findings is that the CWP agriculture sector has contributed significantly to fighting absolute poverty, which is perceived as dominant, and most

beneficiaries have experienced it. The beneficiaries can now afford to send their children to school, feed their families and care for themselves through the stipend they get. However, the programme is not doing so well in terms of monitoring and evaluation, provision of the inputs, and protection of the beneficiaries, and there is a high level of corruption that is taking place; also, due to stipend issues, the fact that the programme has the minimal number of youth participation, and there are limited activities that are available to attract youth. There is a lack of upskilling of the beneficiaries and site supervisors, such as technical and generic skills, including plumbing, bricklaying, welding, gardening, electrical skills and many more. The findings imply that the policymakers, government officials and other stakeholders must amend or revise the CWP policy implementation to include skills development and training for youth and all beneficiaries to ensure their employability and to foster collaboration with public and private institutions for training provision and future employment.

This research will significantly contribute to local and international development programmes that aim to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) One and Two. The study also addressed the literature gap regarding different programmes and agriculture initiatives and their success and failure in addressing rural poverty and development in rural areas such as the Alfred Nzo district.

Keywords: absolute poverty, livelihood, rural development, skills development, social change

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ABCD: Asset-Based Community Development

ACU: Acute Care Unit

ADPs: Agricultural Development Programmes

AIDS: Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome

ANC: African National Congress

ASGISA: Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative of South Africa

ASTGS: Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy

CBOs: Community Based Organisations

CBPWP: Community-Based Public Works Programme

CoGTA: Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs

COVID-19: Coronavirus disease 2019

CRDP: Comprehensive Rural Development Programme

CW: Corruption Watch

CW: Corruption Watch

CWP: Community Work Programme

DAFF: Department Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

DCoG: Department of Cooperative Governance

DFRRI: Directorate for Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure

DoH: Department of Health

DPLG: Department of Provincial and Local Government

DRDLR: Department of Rural Development and Land Reform



ECD: Early Childhood Development

ECSECC: Eastern Cape Socio Economic Consultative Council

EFF Economic Freedom Fighters

EPWP: Expanded Public Work Programme

FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization

GDS: Growth and Development Summit

GEAR: Growth, Employment and Redistribution

HABP: Household Asset Building Programme

HCBC: Home Community Based Care

HIV: Human Immunodeficiency Virus

IACD: International Association for Community Development

IDPs: Integrated Development Plan

IFAD: International Fund for Agricultural Development

ILO: International Labour Organisation

IMT: Interim Management Team

IP: Ipeleng Programme

LED: Local Economic Development

LRC: Local Reference Committee

LRP: Land Reform Programme

LRP: Land Reform Programme

MFMA: Municipal Finance Management Act

MTSF: Medium-Term Strategic Plan

NA: National Assembly

NCCAP: National Climate Change Action Plan

NPC: National Planning Commission

NDE: National Directorate of Employment

NDP: National Development Plan

NFNS: Nutrition Security Policy

NGO: Non-Governmental Organizations

NGP: New Growth Path

NHI: National Health Insurance

NP: National Party

NPIRD: National Policy on Integrated Rural Development

NPOs: Non-Profit Organizations

NPWP: National Public Works Programme

OFSP: Food Security Programme

PAT: Principal Agent Theory

PCT: Public Choice Theory

PEPs: Public Employment Programmes

PPE: Personal Protective Equipment

PWP Public Works Programmes

RDP: Reconstruction and Development Programme

REBs: Rural electrification by Rural Electrification Boards

RLRAA: Restitution of Land Rights Amendment Act

SALGA: South African Local Government Association

SAPS: South African Police Service

SASSA: South African Social Security Agency

SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals

SIU: Special Investigative Unit

SLA: Sustainable Livelihood Approach

SME: Small-and Medium-Scale Enterprises

SSA: Sub-Saharan African

TB: Tuberculosis

UIF: Unemployment Insurance Fund

UN: United Nations

UNDP: United Nations Development Programme

UNECA: United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

UNICEF: United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

UPE: Universal Free Primary Education

US: United States

WFP: World Food Programme

WHO: World Health Organisation

WIP: Work Integrated Programmes



CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

1.1 INTRODUCTION

“We have moved from an era of pessimism, division, limited opportunities, turmoil and conflict. We are starting a new era of hope, reconciliation and nation-building. We sincerely hope that by the mere casting of a vote, the results will give hope to all South Africans” (Nelson Mandela, 27 April 1994). The question remains: Have the successive governments achieved what the former president promised former Homelands? In April 2019, during his Freedom Day speech, the current president, Cyril Ramaphosa, shared, "As we celebrate this great human achievement, we must reflect on how far we have travelled over the last quarter century. We must reflect on the progress we have made in setting right the wrongs of the past, in bringing development to communities where there was once only neglect, in restoring human dignity where there was once only contempt". This makes me wonder about the social change and freedom achieved thus far regarding job opportunities, poverty alleviation, sustainable livelihoods and fighting inequality. This thesis has questioned and discussed the role of local governance in community development programmes and their role in the failure and success of CWP in rural livelihood and social change.

Since democracy, the government and non-state sector have invested in rural and local economic development through different programmes and projects to alleviate poverty, achieve sustainable livelihood and foster employment opportunities for rural communities. I argue that since 1994, the ruling party, known as the African National Congress (ANC), has promised social change to people in rural areas through land redistribution, the creation of 'sustainable livelihoods and rural development. However, poverty and unemployment remain, development projects fail, and provinces still lag behind in social change and rural development. For example, the Eastern Cape's deep rural areas, such as the Alfred Nzo District Municipality, are regions with high



unemployment and poverty. Some of Gary Minkley's social change work shaped this thesis. Gary Minkley, Chair in Social Change in the History Department at the University of Fort Hare, focuses on understanding social change and its meaning in the Eastern Cape.

Gary Minkley seeks to gain an understanding of past social changes rather than to project a future anticipated by some advocated and directed social change; he has written a great deal about the Eastern Cape's rural livelihoods and development (<https://www.ufh.ac.za/news/News/ConversationProfessorGaryMinkleySARChIChairSocialChangeUFH>). Concepts of social change have various definitions. However, Gary Minkley and this thesis depart from other forms of scholarship, such as not defining social change as betterment. Social change in this thesis is conceptualised as a distinct place and distinct development pace in the Eastern Cape. Gary Minkley presents a different view of the Eastern Cape regarding its development pace and features post-apartheid. The features of poor social change in the Eastern Cape, as stated by Bank and Minkely (2005), include abandoned agriculture sites and abandoned homestead gardens, imploding small towns, sprawling informal settlements, visible poverty, high levels of urbanisation and migration to bigger cities, abandoned homesteads and high level of unemployment. Rural development programmes such as CWP, as highlighted by Phili (2013), aim to improve social change by reducing urbanisation, the practice of homestead gardening, youth skills development, productive work opportunities in former apartheid Homelands and improving the overall rural livelihood through participation in different rural and community projects. The more significant questions that align with this thesis's main argument that Bank and Minkley (2005) pose are 'How much has changed in the everyday lives and struggles for survival and prosperity in these areas?' and 'What kind of new rural economies and communities have emerged since 1994?' This PhD study is located in the nexus of these questions and seeks to contribute to exploring the efficacy of one of the main state-led programmes to develop the Eastern Cape. The Community Works Programme (CWP), alongside the Comprehensive Rural Development Plan (CRDP) and the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), aimed to bring about social change and development. However, my main question is,

How much change did rural development initiatives bring to the province, particularly some of its most inaccessible and deeply rural districts? I am focussing on present-day eMaxesibeni in what is known as the Pondoland region and seek to explore the efficiency of such programmes and initiatives to bring about the promised social change to rural communities in the Eastern Cape.

1.2 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

Despite local government investment in rural development, I argue that rural areas are still subjected to very slow social change and community development, and some of the jobs created through rural development programmes are not sustainable. A country with a sustainable and growing rural sector is significant for fostering growth in other economic sectors, especially when confronted with fast urbanisation (Maleka & Shai, 2016). As for South Africa, rural development through the agriculture sector signifies the importance of realising a higher degree of economic and social justice, as several authors believe that agricultural practices foster more employment creation and build stronger social cohesion (Nattrass, 2003; Geza et al., 2022). Livelihoods in the rural areas of South Africa's former 'Homelands' are predominated by agriculture. However, some people are living a life of absolute poverty as they have no access to land. Prevalent poverty reflects the historical legacy of imperialism, apartheid, and the failure of the democratic government to address social ills and underdevelopment of former disadvantaged Homelands despite having implemented various development programmes. The long-term development policies and a collection of development interventions (discussed in the literature review chapter) have failed to fully address poverty, unemployment and sustainable agriculture in rural areas (Wehner, 2000; Mashinini, 2018). A lack of understanding of local contexts, sustainable livelihoods and agricultural practices causes the failure of development initiatives in former Homelands.

After the apartheid system's prejudiced and inequitable social services and welfare policies that were only ideal for the White minority, the Black South African people,

through different engagements and protests, were able to overthrow the apartheid government in 1994 (Nattrass, 2003; Geza, Ngidi, Slotow and Mabhaudhi, 2022). However, transitioning to democracy was not smooth, as the post-1994 democratic government under the ANC was confronted with the immense responsibility of forming and implementing policy and welfare stratagems to tackle the apartheid prejudices system (Wehner, 2000; Breakfast, 2015). From different sectors of the economy and society, the hope and belief were that the government would create various opportunities that would significantly incorporate previously underprivileged and deprived rural communities who had, for years, been exposed to extensive and absolute poverty, inequality, mistreatment, harassment and omitted from formal employment (Seekings, 2015).

The elected government needed to guarantee the inclusion and activity of the formerly destitute communities. In 1994, the first democratic government to take power was Mr. Nelson Mandela, under the ANC. His presidency came with high expectations that a new era of equality and sustainable livelihoods would create a better South Africa for all (Seekings, 2015). South Africa's first democratic President, Nelson Mandela, defined the new South Africa transformation as part of a potential 'better life' for all Africans (Maleka & Shai, 2016). This means that the democratic government of South Africa would bring broad-based development and affluence for all South Africans while still prioritising economic growth and development.

The country's democratic government, the ANC, introduced several development policies to fight poverty and unemployment – particularly among formerly destitute communities (Geza et al., 2022). The Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) was introduced in 1994. It was a development and economic policy framework with goals around transforming the country's unequal state, fostering socio-economic development through different RDP projects, and reducing poverty levels amongst poor communities (Moyo & Mamobolo, 2014).

The primary aims of the RDP were to meet the individual's or persons' basic needs, to transform the nation's human resources, to transform the economy, and to democratise state institutes and society (Breakfast, 2013). The RDP achieved success

in some areas, such as social security. The ANC government was able to introduce a widespread welfare system. Through RDP, a free health care system for pregnant women and children was introduced, and through the welfare system, free meals were introduced to about five million schoolchildren (Cling, 2001). Under the RDP programme, five hundred health facilities, including clinics, were built. More than five million people had access to medical services near their residences. Additionally, more than two million extra homes had electricity supply networks, leading to 63% of the population having electricity at home (Cling, 2001).

However, this was not the case in some areas. The introduction of the RDP seemed far from plain sailing (Luiz, 2007). The RDP, essentially a national macroeconomic upliftment programme, was abandoned after two years due to a lack of economic growth to fund and sponsor it. The incapacity of the public government to implement it and numerous intra-organisational inadequacies, such as poor policy coordination and implementation abilities and lack of experience within the ANC's positions, including the devotion of the obligatory civil servants, were in question (Brits, 2014). The issue of limited resources (Makino, 2013) was a further major factor. The RDP fund of R2.5 billion, or 2% of the national budget, was insufficient to address the backlog in delivering equal infrastructure and services to the disadvantaged (Mosala, Venter & Bain, 2017). The powerlessness of the ANC government to prioritise the RDP and integrate it as a guide to its socio-economic programmes was also an issue. Mashinini (2018) alluded to the fact that, due to the failure of RDP and its numerous challenges, the South African government introduced and implemented a macroeconomic policy framework called the Growth, Employment and Redistribution (GEAR) strategy in 1996 (Visser, 2004).

GEAR aimed to achieve rapid economic growth as it was essential to offer resources to meet social investment needs. GEAR had similar RDP social objectives, but apart from that, GEAR intended to minimise fiscal shortfalls, decrease inflation, maintain exchange rate constancy, lessen trade barriers and liberalise capital flows (Kanjere, 2015). The GEAR approach was adequate for attaining macroeconomic objectives. However, it failed due to the social issues of the country, most particularly, poverty

eradication and employment creation as was envisaged (Moyo & Mamobolo, 2014). Due to GEAR's failure, a new development policy in 2005 was introduced, the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa (ASGISA) (Kanjere, 2015). With the post-apartheid challenges, which included the prolonged poverty mainly caused by unemployment, inequality, and low income, and the jobless nature of economic growth, ASGISA intended to achieve the following main aims: Lessen poverty by 2010 and reduce by 50% unemployment by 2014 from the 28% in 2004 to 14% by 2012; and also acknowledge that the policies applied to address these socio-economic challenges required to be at the forefront of economic policy decision making (Mosehla, 2019).

ASGISA aligned its goals with some of the RDP's goals of building a unified, autonomous, non-sexist and non-racial society and a single integrated economy. ASGISA has had some levels of success and some challenges or failures. However, the ANC government was unsure about its future in terms of its level of implementation (Breakfast, 2013). When Thabo Mbeki was no longer in power, ASGISA was replaced. A New Growth Path (NGP) was introduced by Jacob Zuma in 2010. He introduced it in his 'State of the Nation' address in 2010. NGP was based on the fact that structural unemployment was alarmingly extremely high, poverty continued to challenge millions of people, ill-treatment of employees was prevalent, and the disparities were now more significant than ever before (Seekings, 2015). Based on this, the NGP aimed to hasten progress in the South African economy and to do so in ways that quickly diminish poverty, unemployment and inequality. The NGP was seen as an essential policy to address these structural challenges and attain higher economic growth (Maleka & Shai, 2016).

At the beginning of 2013, the ANC government introduced the National Development Plan (NDP) 2030. This socioeconomic policy appeared to be South Africa's long-term strategy (Breakfast, 2015). The NDP was approved as the foundation and outline for the country's possible economic and socio-economic development approach. NDP appeared to be the best approach for eradicating poverty and reducing inequality in South Africa by 2030. To address the country's socio-economic inequities, NDP



classifies the critical limitations to rapid economic growth, among other things, and offers a roadmap to a more all-encompassing or inclusive economy (Marais, 2011). Several community programmes were introduced nationwide to address the country's poverty and unemployment. This thesis also questions the approach of local government's community and rural development programmes to bringing social change and rural livelihoods.

The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and the Community Work Programme (CWP) are two of the main community-driven programmes that form a significant part of the social security system in South Africa. The EPWP was introduced during the Growth and Development Summit 2003 (Mabusela, 2019). The EPWP relates to RDP; the RDP saw the EPWP as the critical area where significant approaches to creating employment can relate to transforming the economy, meeting basic needs, and tackling apartheid-created infrastructural inequalities. EPWP was fully implemented in 2004, while the CWP came about due to a need to make an effort towards the 'second economy' as indicated by the 2007 ASGISA. The CWP began in 2008. The second economy is those activities that fall outside the mainstream economy; to be precise, it is the informal sector (Mathende, 2015). After attending a conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (Shumba, 2017), Kate Philip, a development strategist, came up with the CWP idea. The CWP is not a stand-alone programme as it is an offshoot and in support of the EPWP. It was introduced as the EPWP second phase part. It is a community-based or community participation approach that seeks to address structural unemployment and offer adequate social protection in South African poor and needy communities (Philip, 2013).

One of the government's pivotal development strategies is the achievement of Local Economic Development (LED) to ensure economic inclusion at the local level of governance. LED is defined as a bottom-up strategy for development, where local government is essential in attracting business prospects, increasing employment and promoting communities through natural and human resources (Meyer, 2014). Kate Philip's works (2013) mention that CWP is one of the LED social change approaches by local government, as it is implemented at a district-local level within local

communities and aims to address household poverty and unemployment issues at a community level. CWP offers part-time jobs to destitute individuals, regardless of their skills, education or personal characteristics (Andersson & Alexander, 2016). The CWP consists of different sectors, but this research focuses on agriculture. The CWP agriculture sector attempts to achieve local food security by planting and maintaining gardens to provide food for the community, the school children and early development centres (Thwala, 2011; Adetiba & Qwabe, 2020). Most CWP gardens are planted on community land and the school premises.

The long-term development and strategic goals of South Africa are detailed in the National Development Plan (NDP) (Geza et al., 2022). The development programmes, including EPWP and CWP, appear to have similar goals in fighting household poverty and joblessness as they want to ensure that all previously disadvantaged groups achieve an improved standard of living (Seekings, 2015). However, the aims of this long-term strategy can only be comprehended if and when South Africa draws on the energies of its total population, including the youth and vulnerable groups (Kobedi, Swanepoel & Venter, 2022). Nonetheless, as noted by numerous scholars (Thwala, 2011; Mabusela, 2019), these development strategies lack the mechanisms to address the socioeconomic issues they aim to resolve efficiently. For example, the EPWP and CWP are social change programmes resulting from NGP (Meyer, 2014). These social change programmes have been planned and introduced to create employment for poor-skilled youth. However, they have been challenged with uncondusive working conditions, failing to provide sustainable job creation in the long term, and did not offer the promised skills development (Kobedi et al., 2022). South Africa's key policies, such as the NGP and the NDP, encourage agriculture to attain all-inclusive growth, employment and food security (Meyer, 2014). The CWP, through its garden projects, aims to fight household poverty and skills development in rural areas through agriculture. This means that if the CWP gardens thrive, rural livelihoods would be improved as poverty and unemployment would be reduced.

Despite several development policies and social change programmes, poverty remains in South African communities, and it is predominantly severe in the former

Bantustans. Some rural homes do not have a single family member employed, and some households solely depend on child support grants (Thwala, 2011). During the early 1980s, remittance constituted a significant share of average household income. However, the growth of the South African economy for decades has not favoured semi- and un-skilled workers (Hajdu, Neves & Granlund, 2020). The former Homelands of the Ciskei and Transkei are challenged by prevalent chronic poverty, low levels of economic activity, a shortage of job opportunities, and high levels of government reliance on welfare services (Westaway, 2012). Unsurprisingly, rural households in these rural communities spend most of their money on food, and there is a clear indication of growing food insecurity, as measured by the number of meals eaten and the measure and variety of foods consumed (Hajdu et al., 2020; Adetiba & Qwabe, 2020).

I question whether rural agriculture is still the backbone of the rural economy. Does it contribute to household income, and are these CWP garden projects efficient for sustainable rural poverty eradication? Is this maybe the reason rural households are unable to make ends meet? However, some authors see some level of development, even if it is coming at a slower pace, as it is shared that there has been a constant, continued absolute poverty of the former Bantustans (Westaway, 2008 & 2012).

I argue the efficacy and achievement of social change and rural development through CWP. Bank and Minkley (2005) argue in the journal article titled, "Going Nowhere Slowly? Land, Livelihoods and Rural Development in the Eastern Cape", published in the journal *Social Dynamic*, that social change through various rural development initiatives in the Eastern Cape is taking place very slowly (Bank and Minkely, 2005:2-4). Their main argument is that people living in deep rural areas of the Eastern Cape continue to live in poverty and are confronted with poor development and failure of development initiatives. The government has not kept its promise of social change. Bank and Minkley (2005) contend that in many rural areas of the Eastern Cape, the former Homesteads lie abandoned, others lack gardens, and others maintain cattle byres and meticulously cultivated fields and gardens, illustrating their commitment to agrarian lifestyles. There are increasingly more fields that lie fallow and are not

cultivated regularly in many areas. There is now also a network of wires and pipes running through this patchwork landscape of fields, gardens, scattered homesteads and rural villages, symbols of rural people's connection to citizenship and democracy. As posed by this article, one critical question shaping this thesis is:” What kind of new rural economies and communities have emerged since 1994? What impact have government land reform and rural development projects and programmes had on the lives of the rural poor?”(Bank and Minkely, 2005:2).

I have explored and described the promise for social change in the Eastern Cape through the case of rural development programmes, CWP, which aims for social change with a specific focus on the eMaxesibeni Alfred Nzo district in the Eastern Cape. The CWP is a community-driven government initiative established in the National Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), primarily providing jobless and underemployed people with regular and predictable work. It also intends to contribute to developing community assets and services and promote community development techniques and people's economic 'agency' in economically marginalised regions, boosting dignity and fostering social and economic inclusion (Thembu & Mutambara, 2018).



Figure 1.2: CWP growing vegetables for community development (Abongile Pindo, 2023)

Philip (2013) signifies the importance of CWP gardens to the communities and the vulnerable. Through the fieldwork, I experienced how the beneficiaries value their work and how their communal and homestead CWP gardens have supported the community and themselves. Despite its challenges, the desire to bring change and make the project work has never changed. Now, they can sell planted vegetables and distribute them to elderly homes and child-headed households. This means that through using their community assets and resources, the CWP beneficiaries fight poverty and unemployment through their garden sites. This signifies the community development principle of using what you have and not relying on handouts. The CWP gardens have vegetables like cabbage. However, fencing is not so good, as cattle and goats roam around (see Figure 1.2). However, even after the animals entered the gardens and destroyed the hard work of the CWP beneficiaries, the beneficiaries always rose again and never gave up. The eMaxesibeni CWP owns projects. After being disappointed by the government for CWP work tools and seeds, they decided to use what they had and stop complaining. According to Philip (2013), the CWP has been implemented to address unemployment and poverty through various public projects. Despite several rural development projects having been implemented, the people of Alfred Nzo still live in poverty. They face high unemployment, and social change is taking place at a languid pace. CoGTA and rural development and agrarian reform are the implementing departments of the CWP agriculture sector. These departments are responsible for recruiting the CWP beneficiaries, monitoring its process and evaluating its progress regarding its goals and objectives for creating public employment and fighting food insecurity (Shava & Thakhathi, 2016). The CWP agriculture sector, which consists of vegetable gardening for food production, is the central focus of the research and has been extensively reviewed. Multiple fieldwork and interviews have been conducted with the agriculture sector CWP beneficiaries and implementation departments.

In Alfred Nzo, there is high unemployment which is ever increasing, people are poor and suffer from hunger, and there is much relocation and urbanisation taking place, where people leave the town and relocate to cities like Johannesburg, Durban, Cape Town and Gqeberha (previously known as Port Elizabeth) in search of work and better

living standards (Masualle, 2017). Due to unemployment issues in the Eastern Cape and within Alfred Nzo, I personally relocated to Gauteng to find employment. Also, after acquiring their qualifications, graduates relocate in search of employment to the cities mentioned above. This raises the question of whether these development programmes, policies and projects are bringing about the promised social change to people, rural regions and communities. For example, the CWP's primary goal is bringing about social change to marginalised communities through productive employment creation and poverty alleviation, while objectives are as follows: With regard to employment security, the CWP acknowledges that sustainable employment solutions will take time, particularly when it comes to reaching marginalised areas. By contributing to the creation of public assets and services for poor communities, strengthening community development approaches and by enhancing dignity, promoting social inclusion and providing work experience to marginalised economic areas, it aims to improve the quality of life of people in marginalised areas (Malose, 2021).

To broaden the scope of the study, this research study posed questions such as: How has the corruption by government officials and political dynamics within the Alfred Nzo district and eMaxesibeni affected social change and rural development programmes? As it is known, corruption issues negatively affect achieving social change and implementing development programmes. Despite the several initiatives for anti-corruption in government departments, such as the Interim Management Team (IMT) and Joint Anti-Corruption Task Team implemented in the public sector, issues of corrupt government officials persist and hinder social change for various districts such as the Alfred Nzo district (Reddy & Sokomani, 2008). A recent corruption issue in the Eastern Cape local government is that over 300 companies doing business with the government in the province are linked to government officials who ended up winning contracts for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (SABC News, 2020). This has an impact on delaying rural development and social change in communities.

1.3 STATEMENT OF RESEARCH PROBLEM

Like many local municipalities across South Africa and in the Eastern Cape Province, Alfred Nzo District is confronted with challenges of poverty and unemployment. There are high levels of hunger and poverty despite the introduction of rural development programmes and CWP projects. One of the poorest districts in South Africa is Alfred Nzo. 2019 statistics show that 628 224 individuals within the districts were poor and lived in poverty, using the lower poverty line description throughout the Alfred Nzo district, constituting about 71.5% of the total population (Profile: Alfred Nzo District Municipality, 2020). This is a highly alarming percentage of the people compared to the percentage in the province of the Eastern Cape, which was 54.3%. Ntabankulu and Mbizana are two local municipalities under the Alfred Nzo district that are ranked first and second most underprivileged local municipalities in South Africa, with 78% and 77.3% people living in poverty. On the other hand, the Umzimvubu and Matatiele local municipalities are at 67% and 63.8% of the populace living in poverty, respectively. As a result of the levels of poverty in Alfred Nzo district, there is an increasing total of 364 205 grants solely dependent on the district (Profile: Alfred Nzo District Municipality, 2020). These socio-economic issues persist even after several government efforts and programmes.

Persisting issues relate to accomplishing an equal distribution of economic development opportunities when the high population in poor, economically undeveloped areas experience an ever-expanding poverty cycle and youth unemployment (Alfred Nzo District Municipality Integrated Development Plan, 2017-2022). This implies that the economy needs to be diversified for productive sectors to be improved, especially sectors that directly affect poverty, such as agriculture. The service sector dominates the Alfred Nzo District economy. In contrast, sectors that aim to achieve rural development (agriculture) remain unimportant regarding their impact on the district's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Much has been written about Public Works Programmes (PWP), such as CWP, as a strategy to alleviate poverty and unemployment. Various authors have alluded to CWP challenges and successes in achieving economic development (Langa &

Masuku, 2015; Malose, 2021; Kobedi et al., 2022). However, after engaging with the literature and previous recent studies, limited knowledge and literature highlight the impact of CWP projects and the agriculture sector in addressing poverty and unemployment, explicitly focusing on Alfred Nzo. A recent study by Mhlongo (2023), where mixed data collection methods were employed, found that the CWP lack generic and technical skills, which can significantly impact their employability opportunities as the skills they are offered not aligned with the labour market, making it difficult for beneficiaries to find sustainable employment and exit the programme. Mhlongo's (2023) study failed to conduct in-depth interviews with CWP beneficiaries but administered a questionnaire that did not allow follow-up and probing questions. Moreover, a cross-sectional quantitative study by Kobedi et al. (2022) specifies that the CWP beneficiaries do not progress to permanent jobs after this programme as they are not well trained enough or do not receive relevant technical and specialised skills- A household survey study by Gadisia, Owusu-Sekyere and Ogundeji (2020) recommends that the government programmes should seek to improve the welfare of households and these programmes must be for specific income groups and that the implementing agencies and departments must have proper knowledge about how these programmes must be implemented to ensure its effectiveness to people's welfare. There are also minimal qualitative studies that aim to gain insight from PWP beneficiaries and government officials responsible for the implementation of the programmes to learn about the success and challenges experienced as a result of CWP implementation. Mongale's (2022) study reveals that one of the reasons for the failure of government programmes is lack of stakeholder collaboration and partnership to ensure programmes effective implementation and sustainability. Previous studies such as Diallo (2013); Andersson and Alexander (2016); Gadisia et al (2020); Mhlongo (2023) failed to explore how the CWP agriculture sector in terms of gardening can or has contributed to the lives of the beneficiaries and vulnerable groups. There is limited knowledge and literature on the contribution of the CWP homestead and communal food gardening to the Eastern Cape, specifically in Alfred Nzo district, eMaxesibeni, despite the lack of land for cultivation and how CWP in the Eastern Cape Alfred Nzo at eMxesibeni brings about development and social change in terms of rural livelihood

and poverty alleviation. Unemployment and poverty in South Africa and the Eastern Cape are increasing alarmingly despite the several introduced development programmes or initiatives. Therefore, I aim to critically explore the impact and efficacy of the CWP agriculture sector in terms of CWP Homesteads and communal food and vegetable gardens in bringing about the promised social change in the Eastern Cape at eMaxesiben under Alfred Nzo District Municipality and the challenges faced by CWP beneficiaries that hinder its effectiveness to rural livelihood. To gain insight into the CWP agriculture sector, extensive interviews were conducted with document analysis that spoke to development and CWP projects.

1.4 AIM, OBJECTIVES AND RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1.4.1 Study aim

To assess the effectiveness of social change projects, which are the CWP agriculture sector and the CWP homestead and communal food gardens contributing to addressing poverty and unemployment and achieving sustainable agriculture development in eMaxesibeni, Alfred Nzo district;

To explore issues of service delivery and factors that hinder the successful implementation of development programmes in the Eastern Cape and develop strategies to achieve the promised social change through CWP gardens projects.

1.4.2 Objectives

- To identify and understand the projects aimed at social change through CWP;
- To explore the implementation of CWP projects and the agriculture sector in eMaxesibeni Alfred Nzo;
- To determine how the CWP agriculture sector addresses issues of poverty and unemployment in Alfred Nzo eMaxesibeni;

- To explore the recruitment processes and monitor and evaluate the CWP agriculture sector within Alfred Nzo;

The research study also discussed several strategies for the sustainability of rural development programmes.

1.5 Main Research Question

How do CWP homesteads and communal gardens contribute to social change in the Eastern Cape, eMaxesibeni under Alfred Nzo District, and what are the successes and challenges of the CWP agriculture sector in bringing about social change and sustainable development?

1.5.1 Research sub-questions

- What are the inherited legacies of underdevelopment from the apartheid era, pre-1994?
- How effective are social change projects in the rural development of eMaxesibeni Alfred Nzo?
- How does the CWP agriculture sector address issues of poverty and unemployment in Alfred Nzo eMaxesibeni?
- What are the recruitment, monitoring and evaluation processes implemented by the CWP agriculture sector within Alfred Nzo?

1.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The study has the potential to significantly contribute both at a national and local level of governance. The study contributes to the existing research on poverty and unemployment as it will be made publicly available through publication. The study has critically argued the role of sustainable agriculture globally and how communities can use agriculture and practise farming to fight hunger and poverty. The study makes a significant contribution in terms of recent literature on the achievement of sustainable development goals 1 and 2, which are about zero hunger and ending poverty, as there is a link in terms of social change projects such as the CWP agriculture sector and their contribution to ending poverty and hunger through development and maintenance of community gardening projects.

The study has comprehensively explored the agriculture sector's role in ending hunger and poverty in disadvantaged communities such as Alfred Nzo. On an international level, the study will be able to critically argue the role that agriculture plays in ensuring food security and how the government may assist and prioritise agriculture as a vehicle for food security and economic development. The findings, recommendations, and conclusions of the study will play a significant role in ensuring the measures and strategies taken by CoGTA and the Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform (DRDAR) are in line with the implemented development initiatives, such as how to ensure that the development initiatives' goal and objectives are met, and the regulations are followed. Also, through the researchers, development practitioners and development agencies will learn about the importance of effective implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of projects to ensure the achievement of development and sustainability.

The country's agriculture and production sectors are also crucial for local economic development, employment creation, and sustainable livelihood. This research also examines the possibilities for sustainable agricultural practices in the Eastern Cape and eMaxesibeni. Also, I attended the China-South Africa training workshop: Poverty alleviation through science and technology. It was about innovative agriculture

initiatives for sustainable rural development and communities. Various presenters shared their innovative agriculture practices for rural livelihood and improving productivity. Through this workshop, I became more invested in further exploring the different innovative and sustainable agriculture practices introduced for CWP communal and homestead gardens to increase productivity and attract more youth to the programme, as I found that the majority of the CWP beneficiaries are elderly and the youth is demotivated in joining. One of the causes is the lack of personal and professional development for beneficiaries.

1.7 DEVELOPMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

One of the key texts this section discusses and argues includes the work of Bank and Minkley 2005, which focuses on Eastern Cape rural development issues. Furthermore, the work by Thakrar and Minkley (2021) argues for reimaging the Eastern Cape. These texts are significant and relevant to the study as they discuss the issues that led to poor rural development in the Eastern Cape and the government's failure to implement social change strategies. Given that CWP is one of the government's rural development efforts to improve former Eastern Cape Homelands, it is imperative to discuss these texts in relation to the study.

1.7.1 Land and Infrastructure Issues in the Eastern Cape

According to the Homeland System, South Africa was divided into ten independent Homelands, each aimed at becoming a nation-state for a particular ethnic group under apartheid. 13% of the country's land was reserved for Black Homelands under apartheid, an extremely small amount compared to the population, and generally located in economically unproductive areas (Khunou, 2009). The Transkei was part of the underdeveloped, neglected areas brought about by the apartheid system, and people needed dompasses to cross over. The Transkei and the Homelands had laws that governed people and were linked to the apartheid laws (Khunou, 2009). As Bank and Minkley (2005) stated in the "Going Nowhere Slowly" article, the rural areas of the

Eastern Cape in Transkei are poor, with deserted land and very few people with well-built houses and cultivated land. This is a similar case in eMaxesibeni, as I found that social change is slow; the villages are located in deep, mountainous areas, with most of the houses being rondavels built on mudflats. However, there are some households with brick houses and gardens.

During my fieldwork, I discovered that villages are far apart, and some villages' homesteads are very much apart. This became challenging, as I had to visit many CWP garden sites across villages, and the transport was very slow. However, the transport issue is caused by the local government's failure to build proper roads across villages, and now, due to poor roads, only vans can transport people to their villages from town. The infrastructure, such as roads, schools, and bridges, is deteriorating. This was evident more in some villages. Even the van vehicles could not enter during the rainy season due to poor or no bridges. Bridges are a challenge at eMaxesibeni; due to this, learners and workers suffer as they often have to cross big rivers to school and workplace. For example, in some villages at eMaxesibeni, villagers use a rickety bridge to cross a river (Dayimani, 2022). The bridge was donated over 20 years ago but was meant to serve as a temporary solution. Villagers must cross the river on the rickety bridge to visit medical clinics, hospitals, and shops for essential supplies. Another horrifying poor infrastructure issue I found in Mpondoland is that there are villages with no bridges across rivers, and villagers in Dikidikini, for example, are forced to use a blue drum to cross a very big river; even old and young people use this drum, where they enter inside the drum and have strong young men closing the drum with its lid to avoid water entering inside then push and pull the drum to cross the river (Mpini, 2023).



Figure 1.7.1 (a): Dikidikini village drum crossing instead of a bridge (Mpini, 2023)

Even in big municipalities such as Nelson Mandela Bay, there are issues of bridges and corruption. The municipal officials are corrupt and misuse the money for infrastructure. Due to poor service delivery and corruption, local people are forced to devise other ways of crossing rivers, as there are no bridges (see Figure 1.7.1 (a)). This negatively affects the residents as they suffer the actions of their representatives. For example, Figure 1.7.1 (b) below shows the failure of Nelson Mandela Bay to deliver the proper bridge for the money donated.



Figure 1.7.1 (b): Nelson Mandela Bay disappointing bridge (Mbovane, 2020).

The Kwanobuhle residents complained that this bridge was very low and poorly built (see Figure 1.7.2 (b)). It can be easily damaged during flooding. They were also unhappy that it cost about 1.6 million (Mbovane, 2020). I believe that tendering is one of the challenges that worsen rural development. Several corrupt practices are

involved, and the service providers contracted are often not competent enough to do the job contracted for.

1.7.2 Development issues in the Eastern Cape post-apartheid

According to the work of Bank and Minkley (2005) in their journal article titled, “Going Nowhere Slowly? Land, Livelihoods and Rural Development in the Eastern Cape, Social Dynamics”, they argue their observations about the Eastern Cape and its development state, various development issues are still relevant and applicable in the current year. The Eastern Cape promises of social change and rural development, especially in deep rural areas, remain prolonged. There is an aesthetic beauty and a contradiction in the Eastern Cape Province, a place of settlement with possibilities for discursive expression but seemingly little action. They further argue that, across South Africa’s long and tenacious history of resistance, colonial power was imposed on its citizens, leading to violence, land appropriation, and colonial settlement. However, it also restricted how people ought to behave. Considering Minkley’s work on development issues and social change in the Eastern Cape, it is true that development has not been achieved within the province despite the government’s numerous initiatives. However, several reasons might have led to such failure.

Thakrar and Minkley (2021), in an article in a social change journal titled “Re-imagining the Eastern Cape Province: Sustainable Human Development from the Perspectives of the State, Civic Society, and the University” they articulated that, due to high unemployment and poverty, people in the Eastern Cape are embarking on urbanisation leaving their villages and rural areas for bigger cities (Thakrar & Minkley, 2021). This is a fact, as it has been witnessed, where the majority of youth relocate and leave Alfred Nzo district to move to provinces such as Gauteng; also, where people, both those with formal qualifications and those with no qualifications, leave their homes for more prominent cities in search of work and a better standard of living. Those who remain behind are often older people who depend on government grants and young children who are cared for by their grandparents and who are also beneficiaries of government grants. Even after those who relocated have improved

their lives, they are hesitant to return to the rural areas as there is no hope for development and social change.

Rural communities like those in the Eastern Cape, including Alfred Nzo, are characterised by poor service delivery and little development. The national and local governments have well-written policies and development programmes to bring social change and rural development. However, those living in the rural Eastern Cape are getting poorer and poorer despite these initiatives (Ngumela, 2021). People residing in those rural areas are losing hope in the local government and the leading party, the ANC, due to the slow pace of development and failure to fulfil the promised social change (Makwea, 2022).

1.7.3 Unemployment and poverty overview South Africa and Eastern Cape

Colonialism and, later, the apartheid era left many South African communities, mainly rural areas, with poor economic opportunities, inequality, unemployment and poverty. Geographical issues, for example, residing in remote areas, lack of social capital, and limited access to the internet, remain dominant in challenging youth's ability to contribute to the economy (Geza, Ngidi, Slotow & Mabhaudhi, 2022). One of the contributing factors to the high unemployment is geographical migration. In search of better opportunities, people migrate or leave their towns and relocate to cities such as Johannesburg, Cape Town and Pretoria (Jubane, 2021). To address this, the government must invest in rural areas through local economic development programmes to encourage economic growth that will reduce provincial migration. Structural shifts in South Africa are another cause of unemployment due to the structural shift in the economy from a labour-intensive orientation to a skills-intensive orientation. The majority of youth do not have essential skills and abilities, and this results in them not being able to meet employers' recruitment requirements, resulting in unemployment and poverty.

Approximately 2.3 million South Africans escaped poverty between 2006 and 2015. The percentage of females living below the poverty line is constantly higher than that of men and has continued so in times of reduced and increased poverty (Plagerson &

Mthembu, 2019). In democratic South Africa, prosperity has been de-racialised, but poverty has continued stubbornly to be racialised. Black South Africans constantly endure the highest poverty rates. In 2015, the average incomes of families with a Black African head were a fifth of those of families with a White head. Unemployment rates were 30.5% for Black Africans and 8% for Whites. Individuals with disabilities had lower individual incomes when compared to non-disabled individuals, with women particularly destitute. Children with disabilities are at greater risk of staying in households with limited access to water and sanitation in informal settlements and have fewer chances to attend school than non-disabled children. The rankings show three provinces are considered the poorest in South Africa: Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo (Plagerson & Mthembu, 2019).

Rural livelihood development interventions have a high failure rate (Gumede, 2021). Social protection mechanisms have assisted in reducing and managing extreme poverty, but they have not been efficient in sustainably reducing poverty. Arguably, the government anticipated that poverty would decline by growing the economy and creating employment (Geza et al., 2022). Unfortunately, this is not so, as the development programmes are not sustainable, and corruption within local government is also a hindrance.

The following figures provide an overview of unemployment and poverty in South Africa.

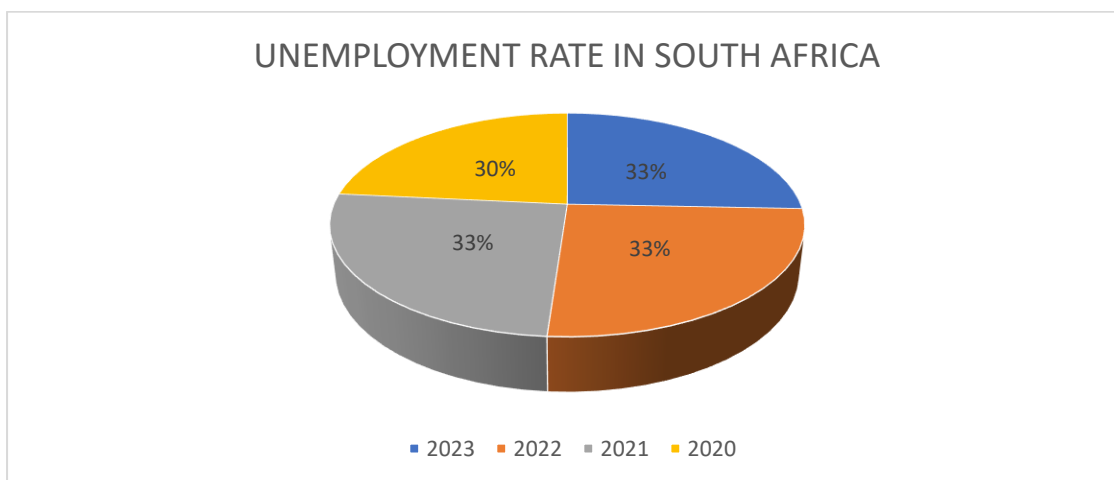


Figure 1.7.3 (a): Unemployment rate in South Africa from the year 2020 to 2023 (Statistics South Africa, 2023)

According to statistics, the SA unemployment rate in South Africa during the 2023 first quarter was 32.9%, the highest (Stats SA, 2023). In 2022, South Africa's unemployment rate declined by 0,2% to 32,7% in Quarter 4 of 2022 compared to Quarter 3 of 2022. For 2022, the unemployment rate was 33.7%, an increase from the 2021 unemployment rate of 32.6%; 28 thousand more individuals were unemployed than in Quarter 3:2022 (Stats SA, 2022). In the first quarter of 2021, the unemployment rate was 32,6% (see figure 1.7.3(a)). The number of unemployed individuals also remained almost unchanged at 7,2 million compared to the fourth quarter of 2020 (increased by 8,000). The 2020 unemployment rate was 30%. (Stats SA, 2021). COVID-19 also affected the growing unemployment across the country, as many people lost their businesses and jobs.

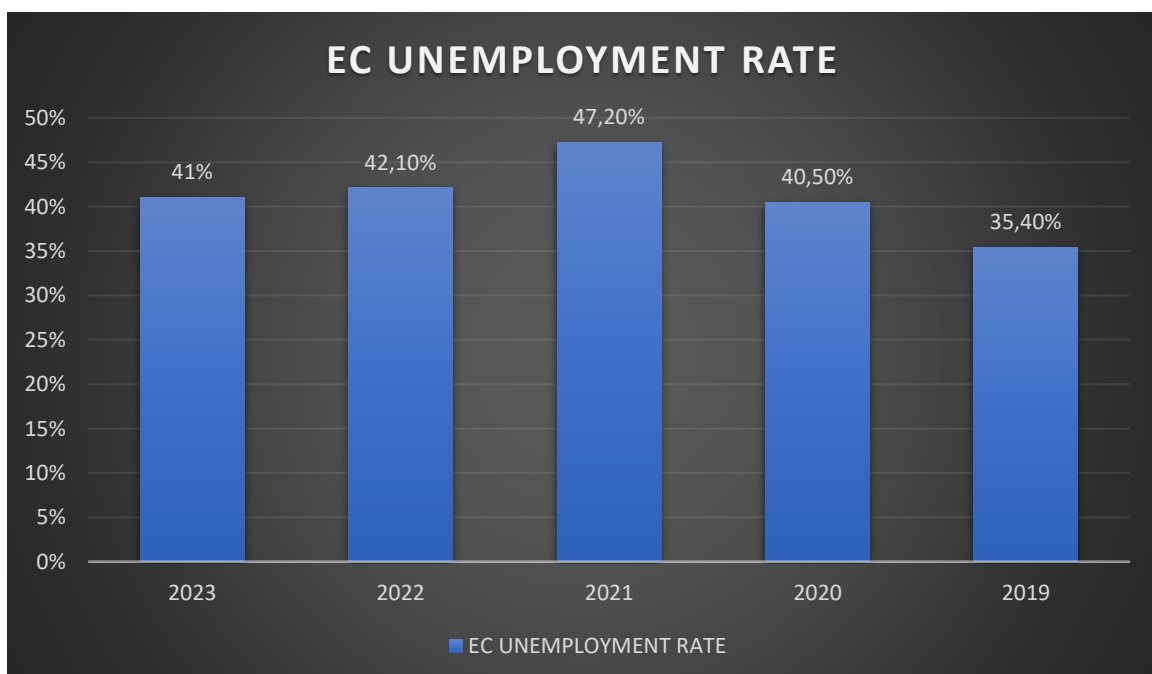


Figure 1.7.3 (b): Eastern Cape unemployment rate: (Eastern Cape Socio-Economic Consultative Council (ECSECC))

Figure 1.4.3 (b) above illustrates the unemployment rate of Eastern Cape from 2019 to 2023. The Eastern Cape is one of the poorer provinces; its quarterly unemployment rate remained rocketing above its levels, rising from 34.4% in the 2018 Quarter 2 to 35.4% in the 2019 Quarter 2. However, this unemployment rate is alarmingly high, as before the 2020 COVID-19 lockdown (ECSECC Eastern Cape Labour Market Overview, 2019). The Eastern Cape 2020 unemployment rate was 40,5% during COVID-19, and from this, it continued to get higher and higher (ECSECC Eastern Cape Labour Market overview, 2020) (see figure 1.7.3 (b)). In 2021, the Eastern Cape unemployment rate alarmingly rose to 47.2%, the highest unemployment rate (ECSECC Eastern Cape Labour Market Overview, 2021). However, in 2022, things started to change, and the unemployment rate decreased to 44.0%. It is evident as the number of employed individuals rose by 2.6% to 1.3 million. Employment decreased by 14.2% in the agricultural sector (ECSECC Eastern Cape Labour Market Overview, 2022). The Eastern Cape unemployment rate decreased by 2.1 % to 41% in 2023 (ECSECC Eastern Cape Labour Market Overview, 2023).

Food poverty lines

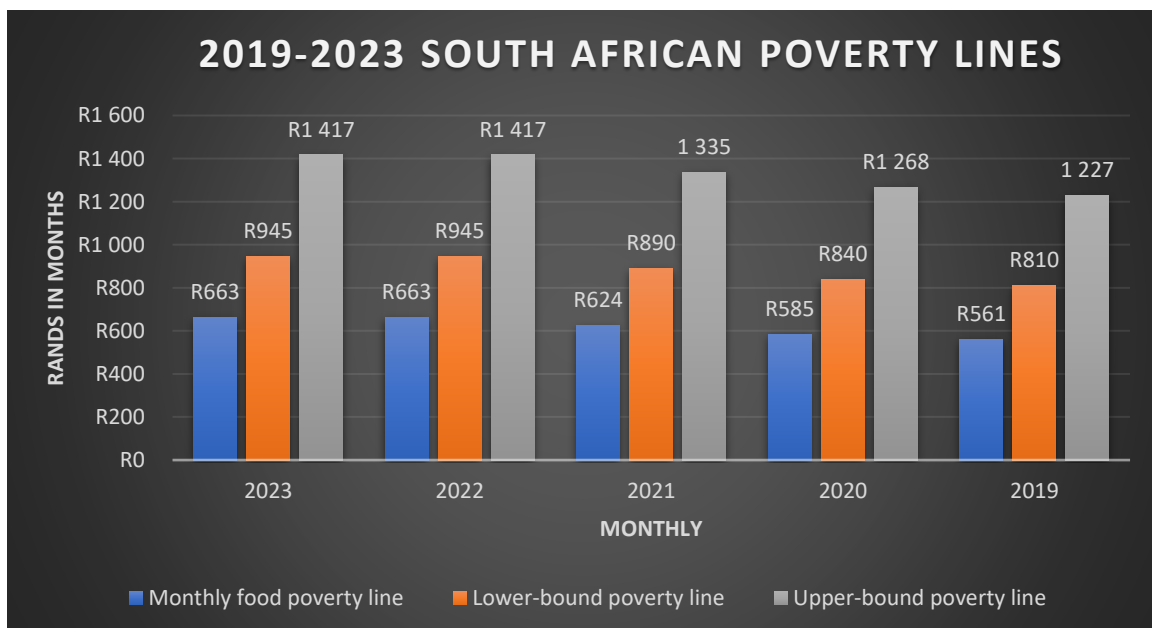


Figure 1.7.3 (c): South African poverty lines (Stats SA, 2021)

Figure 1.7.3 (c) illustrates the South African poverty line status from 2019 to 2023. There are three forms of poverty line: food poverty line, lower-bound poverty line and upper-bound poverty line. The food poverty line in 2019, according to April prices, was R561; in 2020, April prices were R585; in 2021, April prices were R624; in 2022, April prices were R663; and in 2023, April prices food poverty line was R663 per person per month (see figure 1.7.3 (c)). The food poverty line is how much money a person will require to afford the minimum daily energy intake. This is often called the “extreme” poverty line (Stats SA, 2021). In terms of Monthly, the lower-bound poverty line for 2019 was R810 for April prices, 2020 April prices were R840, 2021 April prices were R890, 2022 April prices were R945, and 2023 April prices were R945 per person per month. The monthly lower-bound poverty line is the food poverty line plus the average amount derived from non-food items of households whose total expenses are equal to the food poverty line. According to the Monthly upper-bound poverty line for 2019, April prices it was R1227; in 2020, April prices were R1268; in 2021, April prices were R1 335; in 2022, April prices were R1417; and in 2023, April prices were R1417 per person per month. The upper-bound poverty line is defined as the food poverty line plus the average amount derived from non-food items of households whose food expenditure is equal to the food poverty line (Stats SA, 2021).

1.8 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

According to Thembu and Mutambara (2018), "sustainable development" refers to growth that continues consistently. A sustainable community, according to this definition, is a community that continues to develop over time. Because development occurs in an economically geographic space with various effects and results, some preconditions must be followed to reduce the geographical impact of development (Garidzirai, Meyer & Muzindutsi, 2019). While sustainability is a global goal, the lack of sustainable community development is an issue that affects communities at a local level. As a result, it is up to the local government to plan for sustainable communities (Agholor & Obi, 2013). Many of the challenges and solutions addressed by Agenda 21

have their roots in local activity; the participation and collaboration of local authorities will be a crucial factor in achieving its goal (Thembu & Mutambara, 2018). The sustainable development of communities plays a critical role in social change, as through sustainable development, communities can be actively involved in social change projects that seek to improve their lives. Communities can develop solutions that may improve their lives and foster rural livelihood.

1.8.1 Corruption, politics and local dynamics around development

There are many challenges related to development that people in the rural areas of the Eastern Cape and other provinces face. Despite the introduction of several development policies, people are still unable to access improved health care, they travel long distances, and there is poor infrastructure such as roads, schools and hospitals (Ngumela, 2021). Only two hospitals are available in areas such as eMaxesibeni and Kwabhaca in Mount Frere (under Alfred Nzo District), which are often crammed. Learners must travel long distances to school, and some go to school without breakfast. People vote every five years as promised a bright future; however, delivering the promised change seems like a dream or a lie. Minimal development programmes are successfully implemented; however, such programmes often cater mostly for those living close to town (Macanda, 2014). In areas such as eMaxesibeni, Maluti, Matatiele, Mount Frere and other small towns under the Alfred Nzo District, RDP houses are being built as a means of development. However, most houses are leaking and crumbling due to poor building materials; some did not last five years. This implies that the people implementing the RDP programme were not transparent and did not conduct due diligence when contracting the company that would build such houses.

Many issues have led to poor development and implementation of government initiatives on a provincial and local level of governance. These issues range from political dynamics to corruption by government officials (Macanda, 2014). Local government has been challenged with employing officials with poor skills to deliver the services, financial mismanagement, fraud, corruption and nepotism. To show that the money meant for the development of rural areas is misused, one newspaper reported

that in Alfred Nzo district, four senior government officials who are also ANC members were charged with fraud. According to the News24 report, the Alfred Nzo district municipality allegedly paid R38 million to a tender company to install water meters; however, such devices had already been installed.

Another case was in 2021, where a municipal manager in Alfred Nzo used local government money and offered a bursary to his son to further his studies in Gauteng (Dayimane, 2022). Another personal experience example was when I was going to start my undergraduate qualification, I applied for a bursary from the municipality. I was called to say that my application was successful. However, after that, I never received any further communication nor the money for the bursary, and this same thing happened in 2023 for someone else within eMaxesibeni, when she was also told telephonically that their child had been granted a bursary but never received any further information, even after visiting the offices several times. There are also cases where the national treasury reported that the district municipality has been underperforming and non-compliant with the budget. There are also several cases of service delivery protests and fraud by municipal officials. Such cases are alarming as the money being misused might have been used to implement several development programmes and projects and to contribute to fighting poverty.

1.8.2 Overview of rural development in the Eastern Cape

High unemployment, poverty and poor rural development characterise the Eastern Cape. These challenges persist even after the country's independence from colonial and apartheid rule. Due to a lack of rural development, people tend to migrate to other provinces to seek a better standard of living (Mahlalela, Blamey & Hart, 2020). People still travel long distances to access public services. The Department of Rural Development and Local Government was formed to ensure the speed-up of rural services and Rural Development in rural areas (Shava & Thakhathi, 2016). Nevertheless, rural development takes place at a languid pace. With poor infrastructure, some schools within the province are still primitive and made of mud. Alfred Nzo, eMaxesibeni, is considered the most disadvantaged community in the province. Despite the government allocating money for the Alfred Nzo district rural

development through several grants to the local municipalities, a lack of Rural Development is still prevalent (Mahlalela et al., 2020). Very few rural development programmes are available. Such services are not accessible to all, and implementation of such programmes is poor since there is a high level of corruption (Odaro, 2012). Due to the poor effect of rural development programmes, many have lost faith in the government (Westaway, 2012). Some unemployed youth turn to deviant behaviours such as embarking on criminal activities.

1.9 COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAMME (CWP) HISTORY

In response to high unemployment and poverty in South Africa, the CWP was implemented in 2009 (Malose, 2021). Different implementing partners ensure the proper execution of different CWP projects. These stakeholders include Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs), social development, the Department of Health (DoH), the Department of Public Works and the Department of Education. Its primary goal is to create employment opportunities for the unemployed and underemployed people 18 years and above (Langa & Masuku, 2015). The programme aims to significantly impact development as its beneficiaries contribute to public services in disadvantaged and poor communities. CWP is designed as a community-based initiative facilitating a high scale of employment that reaches the greatest need. The motivation behind implementing this programme is to motivate young people to work, participate in their community development and fight food insecurity. A qualitative study conducted by Mathende (2015), where he explores the experiences of the CWP beneficiaries, concluded that the participants did gain job opportunities and necessary skills through the provided training and were able to gain experiences with teamwork and social inclusion support, which foster unity with communities. Another study conducted by Bruce (2015) and Langa (2015) on CWPs within South African municipalities concluded that the CWP promotes unity and acts as an initiative to fight and eradicate crime in our communities and foster job opportunities.

The CWP, like the EPWP, is a Public Works programme. Nevertheless, these programmes vary because the CWP is community-based, which depends on community members to identify the required development projects. Often, it offers short-term work to its beneficiaries (Andersson & Alexander, 2016). CWP is a platform for disadvantaged community members to influence the direction and content of the programme. In terms of implementation processes, the scope of the work done by the beneficiaries is prioritised by community members working with their local councillors and other significant stakeholders in the community (Kobedi et al., 2022).

1.9.1 CWP development projects

Philip's (2013) work is a key text in CWP. According to Philip (2013), CWP has the potential to close the gap between social protection and employment, as it provides sustainable and predictable alternative income to beneficiaries through community-based approaches, where beneficiaries identify 'useful' work and priorities. As Philip observes, , CWP provides sustainable and community-driven solutions to the social issues and effects caused by high unemployment through an inclusive labour-based approach that primarily emphasises different sectoral activities. I found that the CWP beneficiaries participate in various activities.

The activities include ensuring that the environment is clean, where the beneficiaries are involved in activities such as sweeping the streets, cutting the overgrown grass, clearing away debris and rubble, planting plants and cleaning the parks (Malose, 2021). The second project is a related activity, encompassing working as a teacher assistant and providing career guidance in schools (Langa & Masuku, 2015). Additional projects include caring for the terminally ill (TB, HIV/AIDS), caring for the elderly, supporting child-headed households, practising gardening such as planting vegetables and giving them to development centres, feeding schemes in schools and distributing food parcels to disadvantaged families. The CWP activities are agreed upon at a local level. The projects offered must work with and serve the public by improving their quality of life and deciding on the implementing processes for beneficiaries of such projects (Philip, 2013; Malose, 2021). The CWP is regulated to employ a minimum of 100 beneficiaries per site to work for two days a week, eight

days a month, or 100 days a year. One of its successes was that by the end of the 2014/2015 financial year, the CWP had 185 sites in 159 municipalities. In early 2016, about 228 sites and about 210,000 beneficiaries were employed under the auspices of those sites (Andersson & Alexander, 2016).

1.9.2 CWP agriculture sector

The agriculture project may be found at various CWP wards in eMaxesibeni, and they are usually employed in combination with other labour activities:

- Grow and harvest a limited number of seasonal vegetable crops; nevertheless, no horticulture (fruits, etc.) or animal husbandry is reported (Jacobs, 2011).
- There is growing enthusiasm in shifting away from community food gardens and toward the one house, one garden' model, which has proven successful in KZN; however, appropriate land must be paired with transferred farming skills.
- Food is more accessible and less expensive (Riemvasmaak R80 each shopping trip in a neighbouring town).

Distribution to vulnerable households (ill parents), orphans and vulnerable children is the most typical food distribution method (Jacobs, 2011).

- Selling into local informal marketplaces, although it is unclear how sales proceeds (profits) are dispersed or reinvested between project members.
- Some sites give CWP members a portion of their work.

There are different projects within the CWP. These include environmental care, home-based care, early childhood development, infrastructure, agriculture and food production, cleaning and solid waste disposal. These projects are implemented by different departments, NGOs, municipalities, provincial departments of CoGTA, Local government, traditional leaders, civil society organisations and community development workers. In implementing the CWP, the Local Reference Committee (LRC) significantly facilitates community participation and development approaches. The LRC is also involved in participants' selection and recommends appropriate sites

for CWP projects. The literature review chapters have provided more information on the CWP projects in Alfred Nzo. In terms of the NPO, one of the implementers in the Alfred Nzo, OR Tambo, Amathole, and Buffalo City Metro is the agency called Themba lethu Development Foundation. The NPO is the South African Youth Movement in the Joe Gqabi, Chris Hani, Sarah Baartman and Nelson Mandela Metro districts. However, during fieldwork, I found that there are no longer implementing NPOs or agencies, and the government has decided to implement the project on their own.

1.10 CONTEXT AND LOCATION OF THE STUDY

The study was conducted in the Eastern Cape Province in the Alfred Nzo District Municipality at eMaxesibeni, formerly known as Mount Ayliff. The Eastern Cape Province is the second largest province in South Africa, with more than 17 million people. The current unemployment is above 30%. The former Homelands of Transkei and Ciskei comprise a large part of the province (05 mil ha). 70% live in rural areas (Economies of Regions Learning Network Course -Eastern Cape, 2016). In addition, Eastern Cape Province is one of the poorest provinces in rural development (Mahlalela et al., 2020). Alfred Nzo Municipality was established in 1996; before 1996, the district municipality was historically part of the Transkei Homelands. It covers Mount Fletcher, Maluti, uMzimkhulu, Flagstaff, Mbizana, Mount Frere, Mount Ayliff and Ntabankulu. However, in 2000, it was adjusted to Mount Frere and Mount Ayliff (Rowan, 2015).

In 2006, after extensive consultation, the MEC proclaimed a new name, Alfred Nzo District Municipality, in the Provincial gazette, named after the struggle stalwart, Alfred Baphethuxolo Nzo. In 2011, Mbizana and Ntabankulu local Municipalities re-joined Alfred Nzo District Municipality. Moreover, it is characterised by high poverty. Alfred Nzo is the most disadvantageous district with high poverty, unemployment and illiteracy levels (Draft Integrated Development Plan: 2022 – 2023). eMaxesibeni is the capital town of the Alfred Nzo District Municipality. It is also faced with unemployment

and a lack of rural development (Draft Integrated Development Plan: 2022 – 2023). The CWP projects have been implemented in the district; however, there has been little progress.

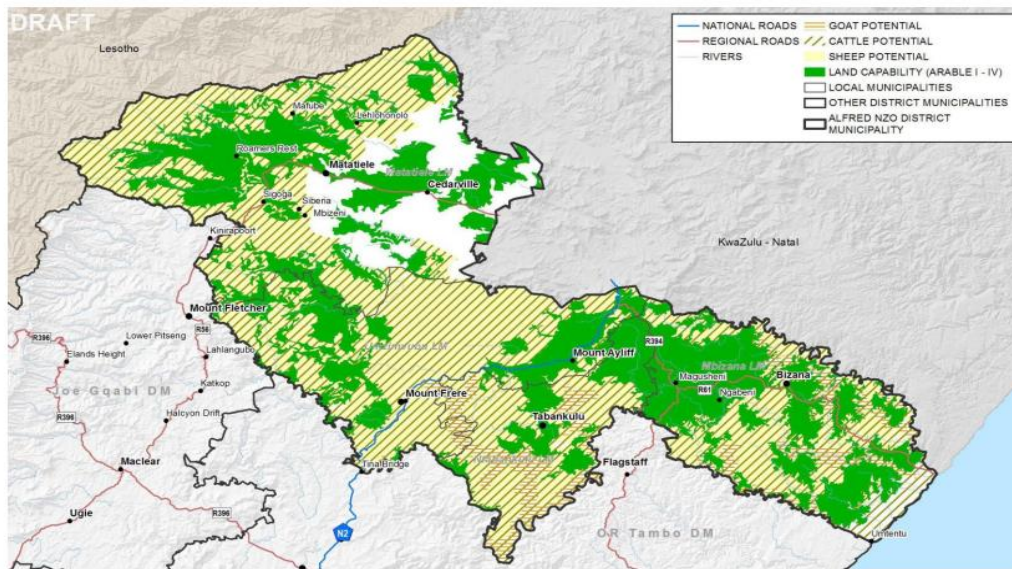


Figure 1.10: Location of Alfred Nzo District (Rowan, 2015).

1.11 DEFINITION OF KEY CONCEPTS

Apartheid in South Africa

History.com editors (2023) describe apartheid as a system that discriminated against non-White citizens in South Africa. The apartheid government, which was instituted by the National Party (NP), became the ruling party in South Africa in 1948. The NP government introduced segregation policies and laws. The apartheid laws forced South African citizens to live in separate areas known as Homelands. The Black population was forced to stay in townships and deep rural areas, and non-compliance led to persecution (Krantz, 2008). The main aim of such laws was to control the number of Black people in urban areas to a minimum. They lived in isolated Homelands. Homelands comprised only 13% of the country's land area. In urban areas, where Whites dominated, Blacks were highly controlled in terms of their

activities. For example, Black people were not allowed to stay in their workplaces, nor could they travel into White areas from their massively congested, underdeveloped, isolated townships. However, in terms of other races, such as the Indian and Coloured populations, these rules were applied, but they were not as harshly implemented. Blacks had to possess and show the dompass (passports only for Blacks) everywhere, and this was done to limit their activities and control their movement.

Colonialism

Colonialism is defined as taking total control over other countries and their resources. Loomba (2015) states that colonialism is the conquest and control of other people's assets and resources. whereas Kohn (2010) states that colonialism is defined as a practice of political group, characterised by settlers and mistreatment of colonies, and is often seen as one definite example of imperialism, understood as the power and control of an area by a distinct metropole. Colonialism was enforced by the authoritative Western European nations across different parts of the world. It gained its power and highest peak in the late 19th century. The colonial era in South Africa began in 1652 when Jan van Riebeeck arrived at the Western Cape. In this thesis, colonialism refers to the power control by Western European countries against African and South African resources and the practising exploitation of local people and natural resources.

Urbanisation

Urbanisation is described as a large number of people in rural areas occupying a city or urban areas; this practice leads to fewer people mostly elderly populations remaining in rural areas (McGranahan & Satterthwaite, 2014). Most of the time, people practise urbanisation in search of greener pastures as, in rural areas, they are mostly abandoned in terms of service delivery and employment opportunities. Urbanisation often leads to an increase in the need for infrastructure, as more people need to travel. In this thesis, urbanisation refers to more people staying in urban areas or cities in search of work.

Democracy

Democracy is a concept used to represent many different things and ideas. It is described as the freedom people have in governance or being part of decision-making (Beckman, 2021). In this study, the Oxford Dictionary definition of democracy is adopted, which defines democracy as a practice of administration by the entire population or all the qualified members of a country, typically via representatives elected by those citizens.

Service delivery

Avis (2016) describes service delivery as municipalities offering adequate, reasonable and valuable basic services to the public and communities. Basic services such as water, sanitation, waste management, housing and infrastructure are provided. Such services promote the well-being of the public. However, in several unindustrialised nations such as South Africa, service delivery is a challenge even after apartheid independence. These challenges are caused by poor coordination, governance, finance and capacity. In South Africa, all levels of government are considered critical and have a pivotal role in service delivery and facilitating and collaborating with other stakeholders and institutions (Shittu, 2020).

Public Service

Spicker (2009) describes public service as activities undertaken by government officials to represent and benefit the public. The public votes for their representatives in governance to serve them. Public services comprise policing, defense, healthcare, education, and many more departments. In this study, public service refers to different activities the general public requires. However, it cannot be obtained from the open market except via resource distribution provided by the government (Abraham, 2020).

Public Sector

This is also known as the government sector, where the state controls and manages services and activities. The public sector provides services to the general public (Shittu, 2020). In this study, the public sector includes but is not limited to, all state-

controlled or government-funded organisations, businesses and other entities that offer public programmes, goods or services (Dube & Danescu, 2011).

Local government

The local government represents and governs a small group or specific geographic area, for example, a city, town or municipality (Thapa, 2020). A local government only governs and manages a specific geographical area and cannot pass or introduce policies and regulations that may impact other areas in broader settings. In simple terms, the Local government is the practice of voting or choosing government representatives to provide state public services and facilities in a particular area.

Cadre deployment

Cadre deployment is defined as appointing or placing a party member to a job post in a given department or institution based on their loyalty to the party, not on merit or whether the person is qualified and has the expertise for the job. That person has to report back to the party and ends up serving the party's interests, not necessarily the job or the people's interests (Ndedi & Kok, 2017). In this study context, the use of the ANC cadre deployment policy fosters the creation of a parallel power structure to a constitution so that ANC loyalists answer first to the organisation and second to the people. In contrast, the organisation pushes its goods ahead of those of the public. From a development view, the cadre deployment policy is patronage dispensed to persons, enterprises and organisations by the government's ruling policy, not on merit but on the basis that they enjoy some political connection to the ruling party. The ANC Cadre Policy and Deployment Strategy originates from an ANC document known as the National Democratic Revolution.

Social change

Ololube, Uriah and Agbor (2023) state that social change occurs and is experienced across all societies. It is considered permanent because it happens constantly; however, it can be unnoticeable because it takes place slowly. Societies experience social change differently because it does not occur simultaneously. Social change is

ongoing and permanent. Societies unavoidably progress, develop and change with time. In this thesis, social change refers to the societal progress and development made since 1994 by local governments through different development programmes and policies.

Sustainable Livelihood Approach (SLA)

The SLA involves thinking about goals, development and priorities and focuses on development activities. It is based on changing thoughts about how the destitute and disadvantaged live and the significance of strategies and institutions (Serrat, 2008). The SLA identifies real-world priorities for actions founded on the opinions and benefits of those concerned, but it is not a panacea. SLA does not replace development models such as participatory development, sector-wide approaches, or integrated rural development.

Community development

Community development is a continuous positive change and progress for people in a given geographical area. Community development includes public participation and the use of community assets to achieve the desired progress and development. It fosters self-determination and self-reliance. Community development is also considered a planned practice to foster and encourage assets that will enable the citizens or residents of a community to achieve improved livelihoods and quality of life (Green & Haines, 2008). No community has no resources and assets; such assets and resources include community capital: physical, human, social, financial, environmental, political and cultural. In this thesis, community development refers to different interventions and programmes the local government brings to improve the people's lives in a community.

Sustainable agriculture

Sustainable agriculture involves using agricultural methods that protect natural resources for future generations; it also involves producing plentiful food while avoiding pollution and harming natural and earth resources. It is agriculture practice

that adheres to the values of nature to foster systems for growing crops and livestock that are, like nature, self-sustaining. Sustainable agriculture is also the agriculture of social principles, one in which triumph is indistinguishable from lively countryside communities, rich lives for households on the farms, and healthy and nutritious food for people and the community at large (Earles & Williams, 2005).

Poverty

Poverty is described as a lack of, or poor access to, adequate opportunities to enable the free achievement of human dignity. Poverty also involves poor or lack of participation in community issues and being excluded in decision-making. Additionally, in this study, poverty is defined as having no food to eat and living a life of hunger, having no clothes, access to clean water, health care and education, no access to credit, not having a job and lastly, not having access to fertile land to grow food for survival. Moreover, poverty means a sense of powerlessness and total exclusion of people, communities and states (United Nations, 1998).

Corruption

Corruption is described as acts of dishonesty and the use of resources and money that are meant for the public benefit for personal use. Such acts make certain individuals rich and slow service delivery, as the funds and resources from the state coffers, meant for development and service delivery, are diverted for personal gain. Corruption includes bribery, fraud, extortion, maladministration and conflict of interest. Maladministration and fraud may impact the public official's behaviour and lead to the abuse of power (Mlambo, Mphurpi & Makgoba, 2023).

Public Works Programme

The Public Works Programme (PWP) is the state's creation of temporary part-time employment. It also involves fostering employment to create public resources at an arranged wage for the people who cannot or find it hard to obtain alternative employment, to offer some form of social safety net. For this paper, PWP is considered as all government activities, which include the payment of salary by the government

or contracted agency, paying on behalf of the government for the work done, improving employment and creating an asset (either physical or social), with the overall goal of encouraging social protection for beneficiaries of the programme (McCord, 2008). Such programmes offer temporary employment and pay the participant for the work without security and benefits. They have been predominantly introduced to eradicate poverty and unemployment.

1.12 ORGANISATION OF THE STUDY

1.12.1 Chapter One: Introduction, background and context of the study

Chapter One of the study identified and defined vital concepts and acronyms, followed by a study introduction, the background, and the context of the study. The problem statement that led to this study was highlighted and discussed. The research aims, objectives, and questions were outlined. A preliminary literature review related to the study is provided. A summary of the study location and methods is provided.

1.12.2 Chapter Two: Theoretical and Conceptual framework of the study

This chapter started by identifying relevant social change theories and community development theories. Several theories are identified and critically discussed. The chapter also provided a rationale or motivation for selected theories. The conceptual framework in diagram format is also highlighted, and the study purpose is discussed.

1.12.3 Chapter Three: Policies on social change, issues of poverty and agriculture intervention to poverty relief and rural development

This is the first chapter of the literature review, where I critically discuss international policies that aim to alleviate poverty, such as the SDGs. The chapter discusses several policies and interventions to promote rural development in Africa, South Africa, and the Eastern Cape. It also critically discusses poverty alleviation and agriculture intervention policies across countries, including their reason for introduction, targets, achievements, and challenges experienced by those policies. The chapter further alludes to the apartheid legacies and their challenges, including land issues. Land is one of the essential resources to use when addressing rural poverty, and because of

apartheid, we face land issues. The chapter also discusses the different initiatives taken by the democratic government to address land issues and the success and challenges of land reform laws and policies.

1.12.4 Chapter Four: Methodology, design of the study and experiences of fieldwork

This chapter extensively details the different strategies used to tell the story of development in Alfred Nzo, eMaxesibeni, and the Eastern Cape, as well as social change. This chapter further alludes to the different methods that contributed to addressing the study objective. The chapter provides the rationale, how each selected method was employed, and its role in completing the study. This chapter further details the process of conducting participant recruitment, fieldwork, and preparing for interviews and document analysis. The ethics that the study adhered to are discussed, together with several strategies used to ensure the study's trustworthiness and its methods and findings. The experiences of fieldwork are also discussed.

1.12.5 Chapter Five: Findings on Service delivery, the CWP and its homestead and communal garden's impact and contribution to rural livelihood and poverty

The research themes are critically analysed. The chapter starts with the service delivery issues regarding the data gathered and discusses the CWP recruitment process, the success and challenges of the CWP homestead and communal gardens regarding rural livelihood and fighting poverty, and different suggestions and strategies to improve the programme's progress.

1.12.6. Chapter Six: Findings on CWP challenges and skills development

This chapter presented and discussed the key findings from the secondary sources, primary data and context regarding the challenges and issues the CWP beneficiaries including the site supervisors experience. The key challenges identified are the issues around the work tools, uniforms, stipends, monitoring and evaluation issues and lack of exit plans regarding skills development. The key strategies are recommended to

address the challenges and ensure the CWP and other social change development are programmed.

1.12.7 Chapter Seven: Summary of the Main findings, conclusions and recommendations

This chapter highlighted the main findings of the research about the promise of social change and the effectiveness of CWP in improving development and bringing about social change. It also provided the research conclusions based on the main findings. Additionally, it provided recommendations based on findings, future research, and policy. The study limitations and how they were addressed are discussed. The chapter lastly summarises the research process followed when conducting the study.

1.13 CONCLUSION

This chapter introduces the main thesis and sub-arguments, which include the efficacy of rural development programmes for rural livelihood, the reasons for poor community development and the failure of different policies. The chapter argues the government's promise made in 1994 and how that promise has not yet been met. The key texts by Gary Minkley and Kate Philip for rural livelihood and development are discussed in relation to the thesis's argument and focus.

CHAPTER TWO

THEORETICAL AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The study's previous chapter discussed the background and context of the study. This chapter deals with theories that are pertinent to the study. I have identified several theories that underpin the study. Four main theories are discussed in relation to the CWP and rural development of former Homelands. These theories include the participatory development theory, Asset-Based Community Development Approach (ABCD), Public Choice Theory (PCT), and Principal Agent Theory (PAT) for public service. These theories are critical to rural development and are often used by local government officials when implementing community programmes and projects. The chosen theory or model for community development can make or break the anticipated programme. As Philip (2013) shared, the CWP is one of the community development programmes the government uses to bring livelihood to poor communities as the community becomes at the forefront of the projects or practical work identified. This means that the implementers of the CWP at eMaxesibeni and other poor former Homelands follow the ABCD and participatory community development theory to engage the community members and make them own the project for its sustainability and sense of ownership. However, during my research fieldwork, I found that corruption does take place, hindering the sustainability and progress of the CWP activities and programmes, and corruption is understood in the form of PAT for public service and PCT.

The PAT and PCT models are pertinent to this study as they allude to corruption activities by government officials, which leads to failure or less effectiveness of the CWP at eMaxesibeni. It is arguable that the programmes are community-based or follow a participatory approach when designed and planned. However, during the implementation, the local government failed to follow the sustainable community development approaches; this caused the failure of the programmes and poor rural

development. This chapter will argue that corruption and poor community participation hinder community programmes and development.

This chapter also provides the study's Sustainable Livelihood Approach (SLA) conceptual framework. A diagram and an in-depth explanation of the concepts used will illustrate different study concepts.

2.2 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The pertinent theories for understanding the CWP agriculture sector's effectiveness in rural development and understanding efforts by the local government to address poor rural development of the former Homelands include participatory development theory, ABCD, PCT, and PAT for public service. All these theories are discussed below.

2.2.1 Participatory development theory

Philip (2013) shared the significance of community involvement and engagement in the CWP project. This is also known as participatory development theory. Participatory development theory puts the community members or beneficiaries of development initiatives at the forefront of project sustainability. One of the critical development principles as development practitioners is to ensure that the beneficiaries of the development programme feel like they are part of the programme and not only as beneficiaries. This includes being included in decision-making and identification of community assets. This is one of the participatory development theory principles introduced (Dinbabo, 2003). This theory promotes the contribution of all role players in the development process. The participatory development approach highlights the involvement of most of the populace, notably those disadvantaged, such as CBOs, Women, Youth and the illiterate, in community development programmes (Paul, 1987). This theory sees development as an initiative which focuses on the community's contribution to its development by utilising accessible resources and guiding the future development of its community. In this thesis, community work means that the beneficiaries of the CWP are involved during the implementation of the CWP gardens

and the community resources, such as land, are used to ensure its success and sense of ownership by the community.

Participatory development is an approach to bringing social change through mobilising people to become leading actors in their change and development (Ako, 2017). However, there is limited involvement in terms of decision-making regarding the project. Decisions include what activities to introduce for the project and which people to be recruited as beneficiaries. Naidoo and Fourie (2013); Waweru (2015) add that participation is seen as the involvement of various sectors of community members in a progressive community development process. This implies that, for sustainable and effective social change and community work programmes such as the CWP, community members must be active participants and not just mere recipients of programme benefits (Schenck et al., 2010; Waweru, 2015).

The CWP beneficiaries, community members of eMaxesibeni, and development stakeholders have become increasingly responsive and are encouraged to plan and actively implement social change and CWP projects for example, in identifying communal and homestead gardens and how the garden productivity will assist the vulnerable. Community members' participation differs according to their levels of participation. The community can participate passively, quasi-actively, or actively (Schenck et al., 2010; Davids, Prince, Makiva & Fagbadebo, 2021). Taking part passively means that the community does what development practitioners want them to do based on information that belongs only to the government, donors, or external professionals. There may be "quasi" participation, where some degrees of engagement are permitted for the communities, such as consultative participation, material incentive participation, compulsory participation, self-mobilisation, and functional participation (Thecla, 2011; Mulu & Pineteh, 2016). This raises the question of when the community can participate in community work. Moreover, what type of participation do government officials permit? Is there a change in terms of community participation prior to 1994, or is participation still the same?

Naidoo and Fourie (2013) emphasise that to address the poor rural development of former Homelands, especially poverty, it is best to move away from communities being

receivers of information to a more active participation role. Waweru (2015) shows that participation in community works and social change projects yields more results for community development and ensures that the community is satisfied with the development initiative as they were involved. Often, such programmes tend to achieve considerable success. Failure to follow the participatory approach leads to unrest by community members, who often resort to service delivery protests. A study by Waweru (2015) reveals that unhappy community members take their frustrations and grievances to the streets. By protesting, activists seek to draw the attention of policymakers to the plight of people experiencing poverty. However, such acts have not yet occurred at the eMaxesibeni CWP, but there are a number of issues that are not addressed by CoGTA and many unsaid challenges due to limited site visits by CoGTA. I concur with Mulu & Pineteh (2016); Davids, Prince, Makiva and Fagbadebo (2021); who postulate that the overriding notion of community consultation and contribution in the decision-making regarding development interventions and programmes bringing about social change seemed to be overlooked by the government, and this is evident as several communities are embarking on service delivery protests.

The community participatory approach is introduced based on the belief that community members are active agents in bringing about social and development change in their communities through participation in the development project (Mulu & Pineteh, 2016). This implies that the government and local authorities must equip the community members with the relevant knowledge and skills to participate significantly in development projects such as the CWP, EPWP and other social change programmes to improve their lives and living conditions. Naidoo and Fourie (2013) posit that active participation in community work is needed to incorporate local knowledge and preferences into the decision-making processes of governments, private providers, and donor agencies. When CWP beneficiaries are part of the significant decisions, participation and ownership of the projects become self-initiated as beneficiaries are involved in all the stages of the introduced projects, such as the planning and implementation stages. As a result, decisions and project implementation become more legitimate (Waweru, 2015). This is mainly because the beneficiaries

understand they have decided on the project. Citizen involvement is necessary for projects to gain community support. Arguably, for a sense of community project ownership and sustainable rural development, the beneficiaries of the programmes and community leadership must be involved in decisions that impact them and the programme.

This approach in terms of community work at eMaxesibeni is pertinent as it argues for the importance of the participation of the CWP beneficiaries, community members, and local authorities in implementing CWP. Active community participation in social change exists when the aim of bringing about that change and its content comes from the community. The community feels they are acting as free agents instead of manipulation or dishonesty, where the people are used to implementing decisions on challenges they were not involved in (Hessin, 2018). I argue that their participation is associated with passiveness as opposed to activeness. Therefore, for the sustainable development of rural areas such as areas in the Eastern Cape and underdeveloped Alfred Nzo, active community participation in decision-making is needed regarding social change challenges and community works issues, involvement in the development interventions such as CWP agriculture projects and distribution of development benefits.

One of the key questions I ask myself is when are CWP beneficiaries consulted and involved in the planning and implementation? At which stage do they get involved? How does the government ensure sustainability and ownership of these development CWP projects? Bank and Minkley (2005) posit that government interventions have no sustainability. This might be caused by a poor sense of ownership or a lack of involvement in decision-making on the beneficiaries' side. One of the major revelations by the CWP beneficiaries in this study is that they are not entirely involved in major decisions for the programme and its projects.

2.2.2 The asset-based community development approach

No community has no resources or assets; one of the issues that our government fails to address during community development and implementation of projects is focusing

on what the community has instead of what it does not. The Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) approach is appropriate for the study. As inner-city communities in the United States needed empowerment, Kretzmann and McKnight founded ABCD, and this was during the 1990s (du Randt, 2021). Its focus arose from social and economic issues these populations face, enabling communities to identify and overcome their issues with the help of existing assets (Scheck et al., 2010). To develop self-driven communities that control their future, NGOs and government departments are advancing ABCD-methodology initiatives across South Africa (du Randt, 2021).

The ABCD was developed by Kretzman and McKnight in 1993 (Mansvelt, 2018). They wanted a shift from problem-based interventions. The ABCD is a bottom-up approach to community work, where the community can achieve long-term economic growth and development. Cameron (2016) argues that community work and social change are more sustainable and effective if the interventions implemented focus on the strengths, assets and capabilities of the community and build on that. Buildings, roads and open spaces such as parks and plazas are examples of physical assets in the community (Chinyowa, Sirayi & Mokuku, 2016). Financial and economic capital can also be used in community development programmes or to foster rural livelihoods (Cameron, 2016). This asset-based approach identifies and capitalises upon the community's assets rather than deficiencies. This means the CWP focus on what the community have, such as identifying spaces for communal gardens, instead of focusing on the issue of limited land for gardening.

Chinyowa et al. (2016), in their study, argue that in terms of bringing about social change and community work, this ABCD approach is relevant as it views development in terms of the half-full glass instead of half-empty (Nel, 2020). Waweru (2015) states that, instead of the government officials and departments coming to people and communities asking about their development needs and what is lacking, it is best to start conducting appreciative inquiries; this implies that the questions must be strength-based. Apart from appreciative inquiries, there are several tools to use for asset-based community development, and they comprise an array of asset mapping and inventory-making or storytelling (International Association for Community

Development (IACD), 2009). Asset-based development improves community works and brings positive, direct social change (Nel, 2020). Social change and sustainable rural development of former Homelands can be achieved through community engagement, community mobilisation, community empowerment, community-driven development, resilience, endogenous development, positive deviation from the norm, diverse economies, transformative development, a community-centred approach, sustainable livelihoods, sustainable community works and grassroots development initiatives (International Association for Community Development (IACD), 2009; Cameron, 2016).

2.3 CORRUPTION THEORIES IN PUBLIC SERVICE

South African municipalities face several corruption cases, and this thesis argues that criminal acts, such as corruption, threaten the promise of social change and effective service delivery. I found several reports on corrupt practices by local government officials, and the CWP site supervisors have shared corrupt activities they suspected, especially concerning their transport money. Additionally, government officials have shared the untrustworthiness of the recruitment process of the CWP beneficiaries. Debatably, the issue of corruption directly or indirectly hinders the progress towards effective and efficient service delivery (Mabeba, 2021). Section 152(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (1996) stresses that the local government must ensure quality service delivery throughout local municipalities. However, even after 30 years of democracy, communities still have no essential services such as water, electricity, community halls and properly tarred roads. Municipalities' rendering of service delivery and implementation of development programmes are hindered by corrupt practices stemming from the South African local government sphere (Raophala, 2013). This challenges the aim for improved social change, community work, and rural development in former homelands like eMaxesibeni and the whole of Eastern Cape province.

Poor implementation or monitoring of social change programmes, corruption, growing cadre deployment, lack of expertise for service delivery and poor levels of accountability describes the South African local government. These challenges hamper efforts to transform former Homelands. Despite audit reports from the Auditor General of South Africa about the municipalities' progress on financial positions and state of service delivery, there are no improvements; situations have worsened (Thusi & Selepe, 2023). To improve municipality progress, it is recommended that the government foster accountability and openness, which may lead to good governance and improve the state of the public sector. Many communities and citizens rely solely on government service delivery to survive. This proves the significance of the local government prioritising public service delivery. The Constitution assures public access to public services. Budhram and Geldenhuys (2018) believe that the only hope to fight corruption is to have fewer public officials to develop communities. The following are two theories that seek to understand corruption in public service.

2.3.1 Public Choice Theory (PCT)

Using political methodologies to study politics is associated with studying Public Choice. Public choice is a fundamentally comprehensive field (Mueller, 2008). Depending upon which active role an individual chooses to play in public choice, the public choice theory was introduced around the 18th century (Olujobi & Olujobi, 2020). The PCT came into existence because of growing discontent with orthodox political science's failure to effectively describe the running of governance, particularly the behaviour of government custodians, public servants and politicians. Mengiste (2020) notes that public servants have a significant role in service delivery and bringing the promised social change to the public. The public puts much hope and belief into the civil servants and trusts them with their votes. Different researchers on public choice, for example, the likes of Buchanan and Tullock (1962), Downs (1957); Niskanen (1971), contend that there is an increasing discrepancy between Aristotle's dictum that 'Man is by nature a political animal' and Adam Smith's assumption from researching the Scots in the 18th century that 'Man is naturally an economic animal'. The studies by the aforementioned public choice scholars led to the formation of an economic

theory of political behaviour, which contended that a person could not be presumed to be self-centred when he or she makes personal decisions but generous, noble, and benevolent when he or makes choices in a political environment (Mbaku, 2008).

Several elements are prioritised by PCT, which emphasises comprehending public policy. For example, the public residences of a community frequently find it effective and expedient to welcome regulations ruling or compelling their socio-political interaction (Mengiste, 2020). Additionally, when an official is chosen, politicians must not be anticipated to drastically transform their aims and ideas and turn into unreceptive, obedient and observant officials of the median supporter. Public choice studies maintain that voted officials must continue being self-centred, rational utility maximisers (Mbaku, 2008); self-centeredness as they would in private markets. For example, they should be controlled through the use of a constitution so that they lessen their capacity to participate in or assume unprincipled tasks such as rent-seeking, fraud and rent extraction. One study argues that in terms of PCT, chances are high that an individual can become submerged by the organisation's norms (Olujobi & Olujobi, 2020). This is an excellent example that this theory describes similarly, as corruption and immorality are prevalent in third-world countries, and corruption benefits the minority of a nation's population.

Given the public choice belief, the status and extent of fraud centres on the institutional game plan (Masese, 2018). For example, the theory believes that the character of the organisation's personnel, politicians, or the character of persons has insignificant results in eliminating corruption, a system that an individual may not address within a system. Thus, public officials have a negligible reputation (Low, 2021). Such reputation affects service delivery and achievement of development objectives. Corruption and maladministration by government officials are two main hindrances to the economic development of former segregated Homelands. Social sciences describe corruption as an essential element, one of which is that corruption is linked or associated with the performance of the many responsibilities of a public office. Manyaka and Nkuna (2014) state that most individuals in the least developed nations, particularly in Africa, understand corruption in more real-world situations. There is a growing

acknowledgement by Public Administration researchers, practitioners, and public society that corruption in public service has an adverse effect on service delivery; for example, the hiring of unqualifying CWP beneficiaries and not offering work uniforms and equipment hinder the programme progress and affects overall service delivery and effectiveness of CWP towards realising its aims. This originates from the idea that corruption does not only weaken and hinder the development or service delivery promised goals of the country but also negatively affects people experiencing poverty, as the resources, even development programmes that are introduced to support them out of their poor and disadvantaged situations, are diverted to profit the few corrupt government officials who are meant to be agents of social change. Under these conditions, triple challenges that are the legacy of apartheid, such as structural disparities, poverty, and unemployment, continue to grow in our societies due to corruption (Lekubu & Sibanda, 2021). Addressing corruption issues across African countries is a challenge.

Different issues lead to the anti-corruption interventions being ineffective and unsuccessful. For example, anti-corruption plans are introduced within ineffective as well as non-practical regulations, encompass attempts to control outcomes with the regulations that came about through policing, the counteracting interventions of policing including law enforcement and the administrators employed in the organisations, have no or poor appropriate constraining by the rules, and that numerous officers are corrupt and fail to provide critical leadership vital to run operative corruption clean-up campaigns and interventions (Mphendu & Holtzhausen, 2016; Low, 2021).

The belief that civic actions and choices are self-centred seems true, as many people have experienced the local government's failure to bring about development and livelihood because of corruption (Mengiste, 2020). For example, there are situations where the public may not be offered all promised social change services that are dreamed of and asked for, or some of these services may be offered in a manner that harmfully affects society (such as the programme meant for poor people being poorly managed and not supporting the target group). Further, in the context of the study,

the CWP beneficiaries do not receive the training and inputs the implementing departments promised them. Regarding the public sector, unhappy CWP beneficiaries feel they have no choice but to accept what they are told. Furthermore, several services offered by the state are services the particular beneficiary may not want or ask for (Mueller, 2008). This causes problems as the public's beneficiaries become frustrated. However, some interventions can be implemented to lessen the growing corruption issues in our South African government sector and district municipalities.

Hope (2000) recommends that training courses and programmes can be significant, as they may assist government officials in understanding the importance of social change and behaviour modification and the fostering of values and morals of credibility, honesty, accountability and principled behaviour. Many African nations currently have introduced organisations of public administration or management or administrative staff colleges to train their public officials. Donor organisations support most of these training initiatives as they acknowledge the significance of training in reforming a given public service for better performance. Training is planned to improve the knowledge and abilities of officials as well as teach correct ethical attitudes toward and about work.

The theory supports this study by emphasising that corrupt government officials are responsible for their actions and penalties. This theory is concerned with immoral state officials who try to make the maximum of their utility in the sector through misconduct. For example, a News report by News24 (Dayimani, 2022) reveals that about four Alfred Nzo district members of municipality management, who are affiliated the ANC faced issues of corruption as they allegedly paid R38 million to a tendering company in 2012 for installing water meters; however, the transactions or payments were made even though the devices were installed a long time ago. Their punishment was that the Hawks arrested them and a local businessman for fraud and infringement of the Municipal Finance Management Act. The accused included the municipality's former chief financial officer, the former acting municipal manager, the former supply chain management assistant manager, the former supply chain manager, and the businessman and owner. They were out on bail. This confirms that public officials and

politicians are rational, devious persons who participate in fraudulent behaviour when the compensations outweigh the disadvantages, which refers to the combination of anticipated consequences and the possibility of being accused of corruption (Olujobi & Olujobi, 2020). The theory describes the cost of corruption in the public service: “When one is corrupt, one is impairing developments and growth in the sector”. Corruption is the main issue of poor rural development, the slow pace of rural social change, and the CWP garden projects.

2.3.2 Principal Agent Theory for Public Service

The Principal Agent Theory (PAT) believes that agents and actors are motivated by their own interests. Thus, it becomes challenging for principals to control the self-interest of those with the power to act on their behalf, their agents (in this study, the principals are the community members and the CWP beneficiaries, while agents or actors are local municipality officials). The conflict stems not just from contradicting interests but also from the advantaged access of the agents to knowledge — the problem of asymmetric information (Batley, 2004). In a democratic state like South Africa, the principals are the citizens or users of the services provided. In PAT, CWP beneficiaries and community are ‘principals’ in the sense that officials or local government, as agents, get their mandate from and then become the citizens’ representatives in service delivery. For example, the principals, who are citizens, vote for the government officials to represent them as their agents. Each has a degree of autonomy, and the other has interests that must be advanced. The possibility of the principal successfully managing the agent depends on the amount of knowledge and information that the principal has in terms of the agent’s performance and if the principal can form the connection to manage the agent or give rewards to enable the agent’s interests link to the principal’s (Kayode, Adagba & Anyio, 2023).

Kayode et al. (2013) concur with my findings that poor service delivery and ineffectiveness of rural development programmes are the results of corruption by agents. For example, there was an issue with the EPWP report where the salaries were paid to bogus and dead recipients. This shows the self-interest of those in charge. The issue linked to this research is how the Principal (CWP beneficiaries and

community in Alfred Nzo and Eastern Cape at large) can control the self-interest of the local municipality officials to act on their behalf so that development goals and the social change programme objectives can be met and the community members can be represented efficiently. This theory assumes that government officials and departments mandated to provide a service negatively tend to use their advanced knowledge to divert benefits in their direction (Ejue & Madubueze, 2014). This implies that the CWP money for inputs is not always used for the programme.

The principal-agent problem arises from two assumptions: One is that the interests of the principal and agent are in conflict or contradicting, and second, the agents have more knowledge and information than principals (information asymmetry) (Marquette & Peiffer, 2015). Due to unequal knowledge, the principal cannot successfully control the agent's actions. Because of this asymmetrical information, the agents use it to become self-serving. The agent feeds their interests at the expense of the principals' interests. In South Africa, municipal officials are well-known for being corrupt and serving their self-interests at the expense of the public. Municipal officials had become increasingly unresponsive to the propriety of conduct and displayed no obligation to encourage the overall well-being of the people and the public goods (Batley, 2004). Corruption and recklessness are what define government officials and their agencies. It is evident from the theories mentioned above that corruption has an essential impact on self-interest as opposed to effective service delivery and proper implementation of development programmes such as CWP.

The PAT argues that local government officials' interests have challenged and impeded CWP's progress and success in achieving the promise of social change and that corruption has contributed to the growing issues of poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, urbanisation, and many others in the Eastern Cape province and Alfred Nzo district municipality (Ejue & Madubueze, 2014).

2.4 STUDY CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The conceptual framework followed by the study is the Sustainable Livelihood Approach (SLA). Community and people's livelihoods include the abilities, assets and activities needed to make a living. Community and people's livelihoods are viewed as sustainable when they can withstand and adjust to challenges and stresses and maintain or improve their capabilities, assets and activities, both now and in the future, while preserving natural resources (Serrat, 2008). The SLA is a method of thinking about development initiatives' goals, scope and priorities (ADB, 2004; Serrat, 2008). It is centred on growing and ever-changing thinking on how destitute and vulnerable people and communities live and the significance of policies and institutions or structures for development. It assists in fostering development initiatives that are community/people-centred, open and participatory, multilevel, and that foster partnership between the public and private sectors and respond to productivity and poverty alleviation.

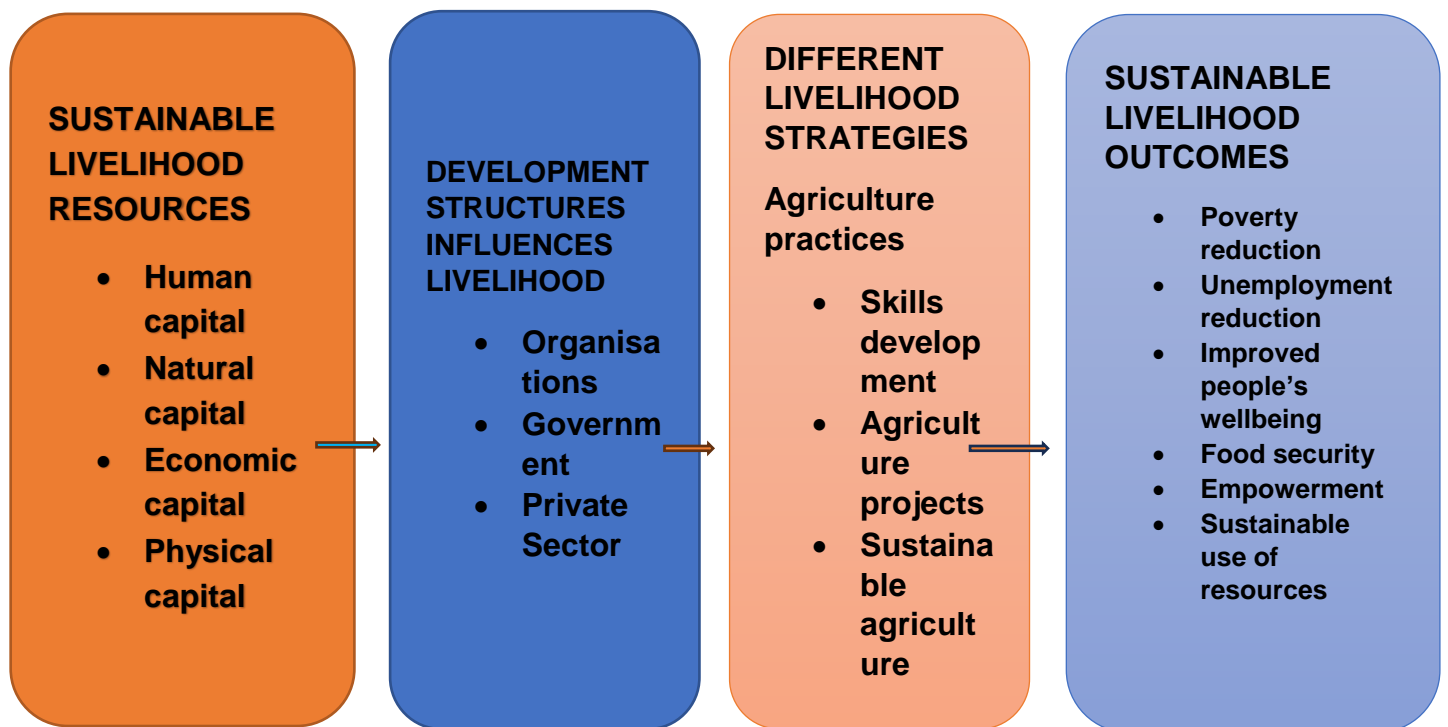


Figure 2.4: Sustainable livelihood approach (Scoones, 1998; Serrat, 2008; Su, Sun, Min & Jiao, 2018).

Figure 2.4, the sustainable livelihood framework, shows the interaction between various dimensions of sustainable livelihood, including resources/capitals, development structure, livelihood strategies and sustainable livelihood outcomes (Njana, Kajembe & Malimbwi, 2013). The diagram also depicts how these dimensions interact to bring about livelihood outcomes. According to this framework, a community requires different resources or capital for sustainable livelihood, including human, natural, physical and economic resources (ADB, 2004). Human capital includes having access to health, education, knowledge, ability to work and acquire skills. Natural capital comprises having access to land, produce and water.

Physical capital includes access to infrastructure, such as transport, roads, vehicles, shelter and buildings, tools, technology and equipment for production, seeds, fertiliser, pesticides and traditional technology (Serrat, 2008). Economic capital comprises being able to save money, having pensions, wages and access to credit (Njana et al., 2013). In terms of this study, under human capital, there are available healthcare services and education institutions that the beneficiaries of the CWP can access; however, due to poor natural capital in terms of transport and roads leading to these facilities, it becomes challenging for people to access such institutions. From the interviews and fieldwork, I argue that Alfred Nzo's poor infrastructure contributes to people and communities failing to achieve sustainable livelihood.

For CWP agriculture to succeed, the beneficiary must have access to water and land, as stated by natural capital. However, I found that only a few CWP sites have access to land and water for agricultural production, and even those with access to land are not fertile enough for good produce. Physical capital is also a challenge for the CWP agriculture project to be a success, as the beneficiaries lack the equipment and tools to work on their gardens. In terms of economic capital, there is training provided for CWP beneficiaries to know how to budget and save, and some were able to use this training to start saving. However, some cannot save as they complain that their stipend is low and that they must buy seeds for their sites. Furthermore, they have no benefits such as UIF or pension funds and do not have access to credit. Such issues are the evidence of poor social change and rural development.

Regarding development structures that influence development, CWP is implemented by government departments and selected organisations. Organisations and government departments impact the livelihoods of communities and the implementation strategies or methods of development projects as they make decisions. They also decide who participates and who does not. Regarding the CWP agriculture project, the local government, the municipality, ward councillors, and ward committees decide who participates in the projects following criteria formulated by the CWP policy, implementing departments and NGOs. This shows that resources/capital are not working in isolation to ensure a sustainable livelihood. Government and organisations foster different sustainable livelihood strategies, such as empowering the CWP beneficiaries with agriculture practices, skill development, food production and strategies for practising sustainable agriculture and increasing production. Successful implementation of sustainable livelihood strategies leads to sustainable livelihood outcomes such as poverty reduction, unemployment rate reduction, food security, sustainable use of resources, improvement of community wellbeing and empowerment of people and communities.

The SLA is an appropriate and significant framework for exploring the impacts of development intervention, focusing on rural communities and people's experiences and viewpoints. It successfully aided the study in analysing the complex livelihoods of people in Alfred Nzo eMaxesibeni and identifying potential approaches to ensure that CWP contributes to people's livelihoods and that such improvement and progress in communities is sustainable. It allows the inclusion of different methods to understand how different factors, such as land tenure and different forms of government departments, can improve the livelihoods of rural communities.

2.6 CONCLUSION

The implementation of the CWP at eMaxesibeni is affected by the theories. It models the policies the implementers follow and the growing corrupt activities that challenge the effective use of government funds and resources to improve the former rural



Homelands. The CWP policy implementation plan clearly states that the programme will be community-based or orientated, where community participation and assets will be used for the community's social change and rural development in fighting poverty and hunger. However, the country is dragged down by criminals who are self-serving and do not care about rural development and rural people's lives being transformed. This is one of the reasons that the CWP agriculture sector is not sufficiently effective.

CHAPTER THREE

POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES ON POVERTY AND RURAL AGRICULTURE INTERVENTION AND THEIR EFFECTIVENESS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

Different policies worldwide address poverty and rural development through agriculture in terms of subsistence farming, small-scale farming, homestead and communal farming, and home consumption. Given the fact that food insecurity is a global issue, therefore several policies and programmes on an international and national level have been implemented to fight hunger and poverty. This chapter focuses on poverty and hunger issues on a global scale and in South African contexts in the Eastern Cape province and Alfred Nzo District. One of the international policies that will be discussed in relation to poverty and rural livelihood is SDGs 1 and 2, which are about zero hunger and ending poverty. SDGs 1 and 2 are critical in this study as the CWP is one of the South African efforts to ensure that the former underdeveloped and disadvantaged Homelands are without poverty and hunger. Rural livelihoods and former underdeveloped homelands can be improved sustainably through CWP communal and homestead gardens. This implies that rural development through the CWP is trying to teach communities, including Alfred Nzo district, to grow their food using the available land and resources. Furthermore, this chapter highlights and critically discusses the agriculture support programmes of the former disadvantaged Homelands for rural livelihood and sustainable development. These include Ilima-Letsema and CRDP. These two programmes have played a vital role in supporting agriculture and farmers in the Eastern Cape's former Homelands; however, due to poor planning, implementation, monitoring and maladministration, they failed to improve the rural development of former Homelands. Land reform policies and acts were introduced to address the apartheid legacy. Still, they failed to address the issue of land compensation and returning the land to their rightful owners, and this has been a major failure of community development and agriculture support programmes as

land is a valuable resource for rural development. Climate change, such as flooding and drought, also challenges the effectiveness of Homesteads and communal gardens. Eastern Cape communities, including those in Alfred Nzo and the CWP gardens, have been challenged by prolonged dryness during winter and flooding during the rainy season, both of which extreme weather conditions hinder agriculture productivity.

3.2 THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL OF ZERO HUNGER AND NO POVERTY

I argue that to eradicate rural poverty and hunger; the local government must invest in programmes such as CWP and its gardens and ensure they are sustainable and innovative. One of the international policies to achieve sustainable development and fight poverty and hunger was the introduction of the 2030 Agenda for SDGs. It seeks to address and end all forms of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition (FAO et al., 2019). Different and diverse interventions and initiatives to improve nutrition are significant to accomplishing the SDG of zero hunger. In working towards achieving this goal, the food and agriculture sector plays a critical role and must be prioritised when defining nutritional strategies (Duncan, Ashton, Abdulai, Sawadogo-Lewis, King, Fraser, Vosti, Haines, Knight & Robertson, 2022). Nevertheless, most strategies introduced to guide food security programmes do not sufficiently capture prospects for incorporating nutrition strategies within the food and agriculture sector. I argue that even today, we are not on the right path and track to meet the zero hunger and no poverty SDG by 2030, as rural developers do not prioritise agriculture and rural development programmes. As of 2020, across the world, about 750 million people experience adverse levels of food insecurity (FAO et al., 2020).

The COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and high levels of inequality have worsened the issues of food insecurity. For example, in 2022 alone, about 735 million are faced with chronic poverty and hunger. This data emphasises the harshness of the situation, revealing a growing crisis (Sustainable Development Goal Report, 2023).

Extreme hunger and undernourishment continue to confront the South African former Homelands. If this issue is not solved through collaborative efforts, developing countries will have societies with fewer productive people who cannot improve their livelihoods. This means the life expectancy would be reduced due to increasing health issues. An alarming issue was noted in 2022, when more than 148 million children were underdeveloped, and 45 million children under the age of 5 were negatively affected by malnutrition (Sustainable Development Goal Report, 2023). This is a challenge, as it is evident that agriculture programmes fail to encourage and improve agriculture practices so that people can grow their own food and stay healthy.

The world, including South Africa, is moving closer to the year 2030; however, it is not closer to reaching the SDGs as the levels of hunger and poverty threaten the achievement of SDGs. For example, it remains apparent that, despite several policy implementations and interventions both internationally and locally, more than 600 million individuals will be adversely malnourished and hungry in 2030. It is assumed that is about 119 million more than in a situation in which neither the COVID-19 pandemic nor the Ukraine war had happened, and approximately 23 million more if the Ukraine war had not occurred. This leads to the enormous issue of meeting the SDG goals to eliminate hunger, mainly in Africa (FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP & WHO, 2023). One of the significant issues in South Africa, especially at eMaxesibeni Alfred Nzo District, that threatens social change and rural development, is the agriculture sector's low productivity and poor support of CWP in terms of inputs and resources. Rural development is about improving Homelands, and several programmes in the Eastern Cape have been introduced, piloted and implemented to promote rural development in former Homelands.

3.3 SOUTH AFRICAN POST-APARTHEID MACRO POLICIES TO ADDRESS ISSUES OF POVERTY, UNEMPLOYMENT AND INEQUALITY

The RDP was introduced just before the 1994 democratic elections. RDP's primary mandate was to create employment opportunities and promote economic growth in

the country. In other words, it aimed to address the triple challenges that the apartheid government left, and these triple challenges include very high unemployment, extreme poverty and inequality; it also aims to address the high terms of development in remote and rural areas as they were previously abandoned and this led to uneven development in some regions (Mosala, Venter & Bain, 2017). The RDP achieved the same success but faced some challenges and failures. In terms of its successes, they played a critical role in achieving social security as the government introduced a well-planned and significant welfare system for the poor and disadvantaged. Also, through the RDP, access to a free healthcare system was introduced, catering to pregnant women and children. Free school government feeding schemes were introduced for school-going children. This was to ensure that children could obtain decent and nutritious food in school; it is known that children ranging from three to five million attend school (Cling, 2001). This was a good approach to eradicating poverty and improving social change, especially in rural areas.

In rural areas, more than 500 clinics were built for local people to ensure that people have access to healthcare and do not have to go to urban areas to access healthcare. However, today, South African local clinics are not entirely a success due to poor infrastructure. People have to walk long distances to access clinics; often, there is no medication, and they are short of human resources or medical practitioners. Furthermore, through RDP, people received free RDP houses, and more than two million people benefited from the electrified RDP houses. However, there are many issues around RDP houses because of corruption; they were built using cheap materials, leading to them leaking and collapsing within five years after they were built. This goes back to corruption as the main issue preventing social change and rural development, and this applies to eMaxesibeni, as many people have been waiting for RDP houses and toilets. However, even today, they have not yet received them.

One of the nation's key policies is the NDP 2030. Its objectives focus on promoting education, the health system, fighting unemployment, and fostering the health system, for example, by introducing plans for the National Health Insurance (NHI). The ANC government approved the Medium-Term Strategic Plan (MTSF) 2014-2019 as an

initial step in realising the NDP. Fourteen (14) priority outcomes, intended to be realised over five years, were identified (SABC News).

Currently, the policy that is still standing in South Africa is the NDP, as it focuses on “economy and employment, environmental sustainability, inclusive rural economy, international relations, transforming human settlements, improving education, training and innovation, health care, social protection, building a capable and developmental state, fighting corruption and nation building for social cohesion” (Van Wyk, 2020:1). The NDP states that by introducing an inclusive economy, jobs can be created; its focus is not on creating new policies and programmes but ensuring the current ones are well implemented. The 40 South African national departments are mandated to contribute to the 14 NDP outcomes (Van Wyk, 2020).

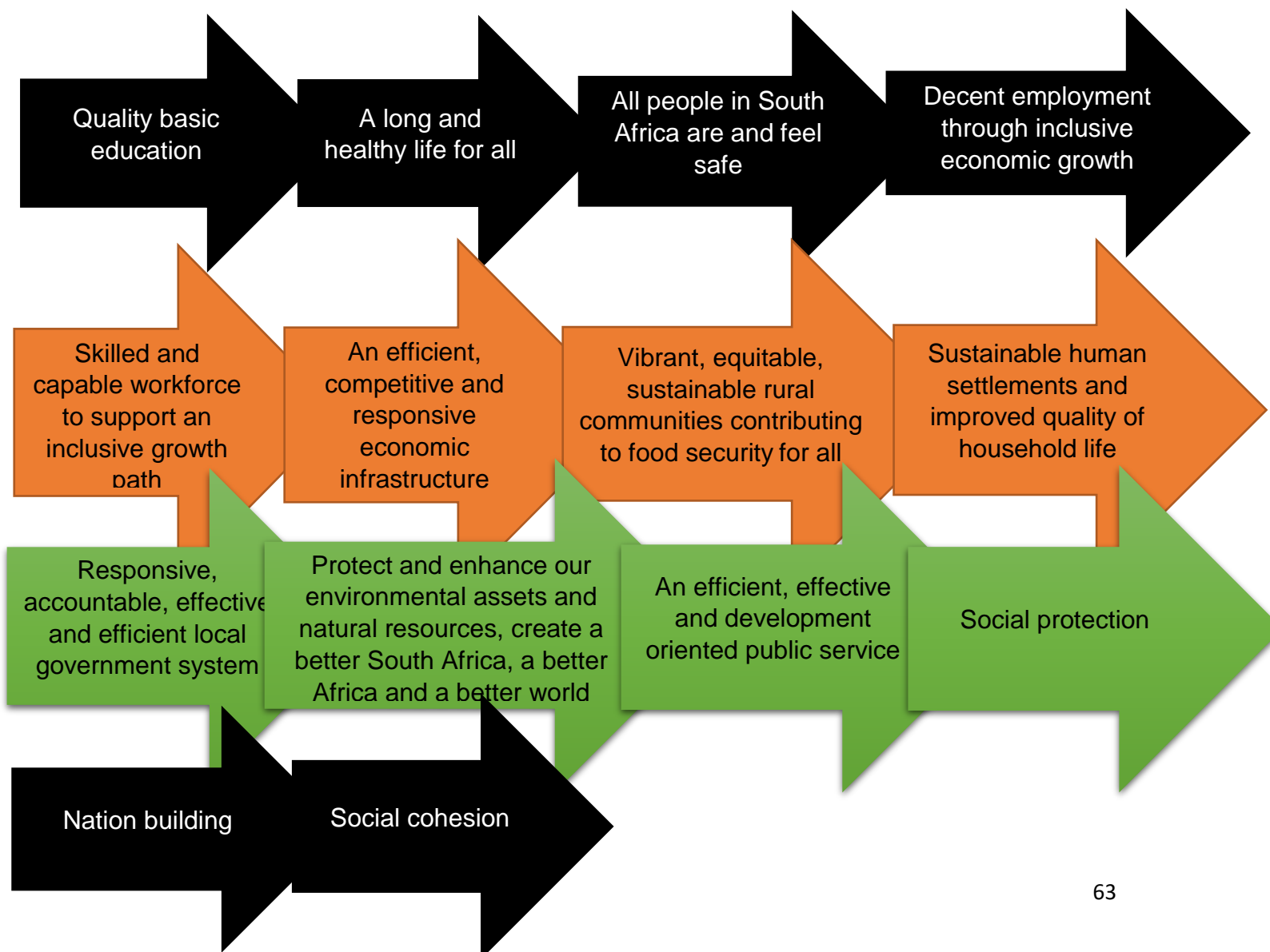


Figure 3.3 The 14 key priority outcomes for NDP (SABC News, Sibanyoni, 2021)

We are approaching 2030, and by the way, things are not going well. There has not been much success regarding NDP goals and outcomes. The NDP failed to achieve its priority outcomes (see Figure 3.3). To show that the NDP is also failing, since 2005, there has been no significant growth in terms of GDP per capita, is declining significantly, the production growth is prolonged and declining drastically, and in terms of unemployment, it is worse than in 2023: the unemployment rate 31.9% and the youth unemployment rate is 62.1% (South African Reserve Bank, 2018; Kreuser & Newman, 2018; Van Wyk, 2020; Stats SA, 2023). The Parliamentary Budget Office conducted the performance and expenditure evaluation of the NDP, and it was reported that the NDP was poorly implemented. Moreover, it is indicated that the intergovernmental planning, budgeting and reporting framework for South Africa is multifaceted and does not fully affiliate with or speak to the NDP objectives (Parliamentary Monitoring Group, 2018). The NDP issues and problems include a lack of the systems and tools to collect data for sufficient reporting on its MTSF targets, the lack of data collection systems for the implementing governments, and failure to submit the required progress reports; another challenge is some of the indicators of performance are not aligning or relevant. To ensure the success of the NDP, the programme structures must be defined well, each department must frequently report poor performance, and a proper, well-planned monitoring and evaluation system must be in place (Parliamentary Monitoring Group, 2018).

People have had faith in the NDP since its implementation. However, it is letting people down, as joblessness and inequality are still issues, and corruption is growing both in the private and public sectors. There is also an issue of specific prospects benefiting minorities. According to SABC News by Sibanyoni (2021), Pali Lehohla, a statistical analyst, shared with the News in January 2021 that the NDP was never implemented. “The NDP was never implemented; it was left on the shelves. So, even the framing of ‘course correction’ is the wrong terminology. So the framing shows the poverty of the NDP actually to confront the reality,” shared Lehohla (Sibanyoni, 2021). He further

shared why he said the targets of the NDP were never realised but were just shelved as the NDP's mandate to fight unemployment and improve the level of post-matric education was never achieved. Miriam Altman, an economist and commissioner from the NDP, states that corruption and maladministration were among the reasons the NDP's objectives were never met. There is a growing issue of corruption in the country, which hinders the effective implementation of NDP objectives (Sibanyoni, 2021).

One thing I take from these macroeconomic policies is their similar goals and objectives. However, the main issue is that if the policy is not achieving its goals as stated, the government removes and introduces another one with the same goals and does not address the root cause of the failure. This shows that South Africa's government is very good at introducing and writing policies. However, it lacks practical planning and implementation of such policies and a backup plan should a policy face challenges. Yes, the policies mentioned above have some achievements; however, they are increasing instead of decreasing triple challenges. Triegaardt (2006); Kgatle (2017) states that the developed macroeconomic policies failed as the country have more job-seekers than jobs. This brings us to the study's central question: Will we ever achieve the social change and studies promised through these policies, and what can be done to ensure that we reach that social change and rural development? South Africa has these well-written policy documents; however, the former Homelands still face high unemployment, poverty and hunger, and Alfred Nzo eMaxesibeni faces similar economic issues. Failure of these policies is worsened by corruption and poor public participation and consultation. However, land availability is also a hindering factor.

3.4 SOUTH AFRICAN LAND ISSUES AND LAND REFORM POLICIES

The 1994 first democratic elections brought joy and hope for the future across the country (Francis & Webster, 2019). These elections marked the significant change that was about to be experienced. The Walter Rodney 1972 book, "How Europe Underdeveloped Africa" clearly articulates and gives a detailed analysis and view on

the exploitation of Africa by European colonial empires. South Africa is also known for its colourful past, which is being colonised and experiencing apartheid segregation laws, and such laws are the reason for the Homeland's development state. For this thesis, I used Walter Rodney's book to argue the impact of apartheid laws of segregation on rural development and the triple challenges that today, as a country, we face. One of the main issues of underdevelopment in former Homelands is linked to the issue of land accessibility. Most of the fertile land in rural areas was taken from the Black people to be owned by the White minority, and that brought today's issues of agriculture productivity and failures of small and subsistence farming. Rodney (1972) further alludes to how the segregation laws forced rightful landowners off their land to remote areas where most of the land lacked value and productivity.

As stated by Leibbrandt, Woolard, Finn and Argent (2010), South Africa's infamous history of apartheid continues to impact former Homelands in terms of their rural development. Arko-Achemfuor (2016); and Sikwela et al. (2018) agree that the policies of Apartheid crippled the Homeland's development and economy and further contend that it is because of these apartheid systems and policies that we experience the most impaired socio-economic state and that the country is mainly confronted with the triple challenges which it fails to eradicate successfully. It is well known that in rural communities, including the eMaxesibeni under Alfred Nzo District, the people mainly depend on social grants and agriculture for their livelihoods; however, with the persistent issues of land accessibility, their agricultural productivity and livelihoods are challenged. As Makhado (2012) states, the country inherited a problematic and unequal land distribution state as the Black population group owned only 13% of the agricultural land. Whites owned everything: the land, agribusinesses and commercial farms. For example, the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (2013) postulates that in rural areas, there are more than 12 million people who are faced with extreme hunger, poverty and unemployment, and the leading cause of that was the 1913 Natives Land Act. The Natives Land Act of 1913 was amongst many segregation Acts that removed the ownership of the land from the indigenous people. Without addressing the land issue, I argue that the former Homelands will remain poor despite numerous rural development programmes.

Additionally, the majority of the Black South Africans and communities were removed forcefully from their ancestral land, leading to the Whites occupying the land (Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, 2011). Additionally, Karriem and Hoskins (2016); Sikwela et al. (2018) agree with the fact that the Apartheid land policies ripped the indigenous people off, as all of the productive land was taken and occupied by the Whites and it must be kept in mind that the land was the basic need for many Black South Africans as they solely depend on it for food and income. In and before 1994, 87% of agricultural land was owned by the Whites (Adams, 2000), supporting this view that about 82 million White minorities owned the fertile land, leaving the Black majority owned 13%. This means, the Black majority were without land and to stay in deserted Homelands and were refused the right to own property. Without land, they had nothing; they were forced to work for White farmers and were regarded as cheap labour. This act pushed the Black majority into deeper poverty, which is now harder to address. This is why the Eastern Cape has so many poor rural areas.

After the first democratic elections in 1994, attempts have been made to rectify the past. One of the attempts was through the Constitution of South Africa (1996) section 15, which mandated the previously segregated people to access the land. It is well known that if the government wants to succeed in fighting poor rural development, poverty and unemployment through CWP gardens, there must be access to fertile arable land. The 1994 land reform has three principles. Land redistribution means land must be returned to people affected by the 1913 Native Land Act. Secondly, there is land restitution, which implies that those forced out of their land must be allowed to buy back their land through a grant system. Lastly, land tenure is about reforming “the tenure of land occupants to put them under a valid system of landholding” (Aliber & Cousins, 2013). In terms of land restitution, the willing buyer and willing seller approach meant that the commercial farms were to be sold to beneficiaries. Through this approach, the previously removed Black people would return to their land. However, this was not a success as there were budget constraints, the people could not afford to repurchase the land, and significantly inadequate support was offered to

the beneficiaries (Arko-Achemfuor, 2016). For example, only 9% of the land was transferred through land restitution and redistribution.

Another reason for the failure of the willing buyer and willing seller is that the government's pay-out processes took very long and were complicated. The success heavily relied on the willingness of the farmers to sell the land. The study by Makombe (2018) found that the land reform programme would have worked and jobs created for previously disadvantaged communities, and this would be achieved through employing local people and only going beyond when there are labour skill shortages. Additionally, to ensure social change and development of rural areas through agriculture, the government must provide the farmers and the local beneficiaries with extensive training. Given the rise in poverty issues, the Restitution of Land Rights Amendment Act (RLRAA)(No. 15 of 2014) was passed; RLRAA aimed to ensure that the people who were forced out of their land because of apartheid racial Acts received compensation. However, this was also ineffective, as there has been little progress in compensating the previously disadvantaged people (Mokwena & Maluleke, 2020).

South Africa has made very little progress in addressing the land issue. As stated by the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (2010), between 1994 and 2010, only 3 million hectares were redistributed through the redistribution programme. In addition, only 2 million hectares were settled through the restitution programme. Table 4.2 below shows the progress of land redistribution, tenure and land claims settled.

Provinces	Hectares	Land beneficiaries	Household numbers	The price of the land
Eastern Cape	359,226	26,128	989	R 908,608,602
Free State	355,912	7,827	2,098	R 3,239,918,501
Gauteng	34,964	7,392	6,062	R277,798,072
Kwazulu-Natal	562,356	69,662	34,931	R1,745,212,381



Limpopo	94,396	7,633	6,078	R1,333,317,152
Mpumalanga	328,439	14,103	17,764	R3,217,100,598
Northern Cape	980,349	2,810	4,224	R 563,451,716
North West	277,769	40,601	27,454	R 487,874,775
Western Cape	126,310	13,477	8,091	R414,918,727
Total	3,119,721	189,633	107,655	R 12,188,200,525

Table 3.4 (a): Status of land redistribution and land tenure between 1994 and March 2010 (Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, 2010).

Province names	Claims made	Number of beneficiaries	Number of hectares	Land price	Compensation made
Eastern Cape	16201	215468	94889	R 217,735,504.13	R 1,303,231,051.84
Free State	2662	40893	47615	R 9,428,300.00	R 131,492,315.96
Gauteng	13159	70179	9476	R 117,283,195.57	R 635,320,713.73
Kwazulu-Natal	15065	433168	642447	R 3,783,495,709.49	R 1,343,066,819.18
Limpopo	3070	220227	513024	R 2,523,249,735.37	R 152,193,039.77
Mpumalanga	2755	225877	400050	R 3,794,808,868.58	R 362,212,107.94
Northern Cape	3696	100554	539620	R 410,480.454.81	R 660,744,511.86
North West	3709	173321	373751	R 1,243,488,766.81	R 255,068,518.35
Western Cape	15528	119795	3769	R 22,673,168.50	R 824,058,057.93

Total	75844	1,599,482	2,624,641	R 12,122,643,703.26	R 5,667,387,138.56
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Table 3.4 (b): Land restitution settled from 1995 to 31 March 2010 (Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, 2010).

Due to the slow progress of finalising the land claims, the Constitutional Court has ordered that the old claims be finalised before processing new claims. For example, the government had about 20,000 outstanding land claims, 10,000 land claims, and over 30,000 land claims expected between 2014 and 2015. Only 8,000 land claims have been settled since the 1990s, and 17,000 claims have been approved, but no restitution has been made (Mokwena & Maluleke, 2020).

Agriculture is the only solution to poverty, even though agricultural practices are often neglected in rural areas. However, the land is critical for successful agriculture programmes and support (Sikwela et al., 2018). For an effective rural agrarian system, land is an essential resource for rural communities (Mosaka, 2014). In rural areas, the critical method to fight slow social change and poverty is through agriculture and agriculture rural development programmes. However, Machethe (2004) believes most agriculture workers are underpaid and lack appropriate technical skills. This is because there are limited training and workshops provided to those interested in agriculture, and this is similar to what I have found at eMaxesibeni, as the participants shared that they have received limited or no training for agriculture practices. The main issue hindering agriculture is that the government is failing the new landowners the necessary support for practical agriculture. The beneficiaries have no access to arable land, even for agriculture support programmes like those in the CWP agriculture sector, as I found that some CWP garden villages do not have communal and homestead gardens and have been begging the councillor for sites.

Aliber and Cousins (2013) state that since 1994, many rural agriculture programmes have been introduced but have failed to address the issues of poverty or yield positive outcomes. Instead, the government has fostered high dependency as people tend to rely solely on government grants, and contrary to these post-1994 land policies and programmes, poverty and poor rural development have risen alarmingly. Some of the failures are that the government programmes, similar to what I have found regarding

CWP, have limited input provision, agriculture training opportunities, machinery and financial support to promote productivity. The other challenge is a lack of promotion and motivation for youth to join agriculture. For example, at eMaxesibeni, very few beneficiaries fall under the youth category. The interviewed youth shared that the programme has failed to develop initiatives and workshops to attract youth, especially regarding skills development. This can be resolved by supporting homestead gardens and small-scale farmers, including more agricultural financial investment in rural areas and training (Machethe, 2004). This shows that social change and rural community development fail to develop innovative agriculture practices and programmes for youth participation.

It is evident that rural communities are still facing issues of being neglected; this is true because most of the rural communities, even after democracy, live a life of poverty and unemployment (especially in the Eastern Cape). Yes, the rural communities contribute to economic growth as they pay taxes. However, they face poor service delivery. In rural areas, traditional leaders such as kings and chiefs control the land and are responsible for the land allocation. Because of the land access issue, rural communities depend intensely on social grants for survival. It can be concluded that land acts and policies have failed to address the development of the former Homelands. This is a challenge as rural areas heavily depend on agriculture productivity and practices for economic activities. The Eastern Cape Province is one of the provinces where rural development is poor. The rural areas in the Eastern Cape were also previously isolated. The isolation is one of the reasons for the Eastern Cape's poor rural development and social change.

3.5 EASTERN CAPE FORMER HOMELANDS AND ISSUES OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The journey of rural development for former Homelands is not an easy one. Several issues must be addressed to foster rural livelihood through agriculture, as many rural areas are highly underdeveloped and experience high levels of hunger. Even after

implementing several development policies, it is still a challenge and difficult to eradicate the legacy of apartheid, and the Eastern Cape is one of the provinces that still deals with apartheid issues. Eastern Cape is one of the provinces that are considered poorly developed. This province experiences the highest unemployment rate, poverty and inequality. However, for such underdevelopment status, there is a reason and cause for that. During the apartheid regime, South Africa was divided into Homelands, and these Homelands are the reason for the uneven development across provinces; these homelands included Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Ciskei, Venda, Gazankulu, KaNgwane, KwaNdebele, KwaZulu, Lebowa, and QwaQwa (Ali, 2016).

The Homelands ensured that the African-Black ethnic groups remained separated. For example, those who spoke IsiXhosa were placed in Ciskei and Transkei Homelands; the Zulu speaking group stayed in KwaZulu, Tswana speakers' Homeland was Bophuthatswana, Lebowa for the Pedi and Northern Ndebele, Venda only for Vendas, Gazankulu for Shangaan and Tsonga people and QwaQwa was for Basothos (South African History Online). This segregation Act was known as The Bantu Homelands Citizenship Act of 1970. It mandated that the Black ethnic group was solely dependent on their Homelands and were excluded from exercising any political decision as they had no rights.

Post 1994, these Homelands had to be dissolved, and Provinces were introduced. The Transkei and Ciskei became part of the Eastern Cape province. Despite the dissolution of former Homelands, the former Transkei remained the poorest even after 1994 (Lugogo, 2018). Bank and Minkley (2005) agree that the Eastern Cape province remained poor and highly underdeveloped. They continued to provide the underdeveloped nature of the Eastern Cape in terms of how it looks even after democracy. For example, the deserted homesteads dominate the province, most of the fields are dry, and the gardens are uncultivated. This brings us to the question: What new rural development and social change have been brought about by democracy? Additionally, what good has been done by the land reform and agrarian policies for the rural people regarding rural development? Annual poverty statistics and research show that poverty levels and underdevelopment in the Eastern Cape

have worsened, and most affected people are those in rural areas where service delivery is relatively slow.

Connor and Mtwana (2017) also agree about the current features of rural Eastern Cape communities, as they observe that there is much-uncultivated land and abandoned and underutilised fields. Many gardens are not cultivated yet fully fenced. This is similar to what I have observed during my fieldwork. Connor and Mtwana (2017) further state that home gardening in the Eastern Cape is vital for household poverty and livelihood, as these gardens may feed whole families and neighbours. I found that the CWP communal gardens are critical in supplementing food bought from supermarkets and adding diversity to people's diets. Some families even send their children to higher education using the money gained from selling vegetables. To prove that the province is experiencing poor development and hunger, many people leave the rural Eastern Cape for cities to improve their welfare. However, those left behind are left with no hope for change. Those remaining have been promised rural development, and yes, there is some slight change in service delivery, such as electricity and water. However, there are minimal opportunities for sustainable livelihoods for those living in rural areas (Bank & Minkely, 2005). To the contrary, there are some positive views from other scholars; for example, Perret, Carstens, Randela and Moyo (2000); Zantsi and Bester (2019) shared that there is some arable land in the Eastern Cape that can be used for agriculture. This means some households have access to crop production and animal grazing land. For example, 85% of the Eastern Cape households have access to arable land, and 75% have access to grazing land. Additionally, a study by Zantsi and Bester (2019) found that inhabitants have abandoned field cultivation for garden cultivation in the Eastern Cape. This is similar to what Bank and Minkely (2005) said about Eastern Cape fields for cultivation being abandoned. The garden cultivation is also decreasing significantly. Poor agricultural practices and social change are worsened by youth migration to rural-urban areas.

It has been more than two decades, yet the issues of poverty, rural development, poor agriculture productivity, and inequality still threaten development. Unemployment

issues have demoralised our youth. Education is often said to be the key that will open many doors, but now graduates do not feel or share the same sentiments as they are confronted with high unemployment. However, Rogan (2018) believes that to fight poverty and unemployment in the Eastern Cape, agriculture must be encouraged; for example, community and school gardens can be used for cultivation and crop production. In this way, people can grow their food. Without agriculture practices and investments in rural areas, the rural people will continue living below the poverty line. To show that poverty is a threat in the Eastern Cape, a new report by Makhofela (2023) states that about 1087 children in the Eastern Cape experienced acute malnourishment and hunger, and about 116 children died from hunger between 2021 and 2022. Additionally, about 27% of children experience stunting due to hunger and malnourishment, and the majority of children affected by this are African-Black children (Makhofela, 2023).

Additionally, agricultural activities are effective for poverty alleviation. A study by Rogan (2018) found that households who practise farming are at a low risk of experiencing poverty compared to those who do not participate in agricultural activities. The Eastern Cape province often practises household subsistence farming for livelihood and survival. However, despite the importance of the agriculture sector in this province, the sector is declining, and so is production, which hinders poverty alleviation efforts (Kativhu & Nomabandla, 2022). It is saddening that the country, including the Eastern Cape provinces, is said to have vast arable land for agriculture. However, poverty issues are intensifying; many households are poor, and some families sleep without food. Another issue is that the country has arable land but depends on other countries for food through imports. Instead, local government officials should use the available land to promote agriculture so the country can grow its food. I argue that rural poverty would be reduced if rural people were encouraged to use their small land sites to grow their food and vegetables.

The government of South Africa, under the leadership of ANC, has introduced many interventions to ensure that the former Homelands, such as Ciskei and Transkei, are experiencing some social change, even if the change is slow. However, such efforts

seem to fail or not yield positive results (Kativhu & Nomabandla, 2022). The reason might be the local government's approach when implementing rural development programmes. For example, instead of community participation or hand up, they foster reliance through hand out. Therefore, the communities end up being dependent on the government for everything. Even those with arable land, instead of thinking on their feet to utilise the land for their livelihoods, will wait for the government to provide everything for them, and if not, there will not be any change (Neves, 2017). The cause might be the growing issue of social grants and the rosy future the government promises people in return for votes. For example, in Alfred Nzo eMaxesibeni, there are some economic opportunities for agriculture or even for people to practise homestead gardens. However, people would complain that they do not have seeds and will wait for the government for a tractor and seeds and the government often takes time for such support and service, and not everyone benefits from such services. This leads to people staying hungry and buying everything from shops, even the things they could grow from their small gardens.

The standard of living in Alfred Nzo and almost all the Eastern Cape areas is sad, and this is often shown through cutting-edge episodes. For example, about 90% earn less than R19 200 per annum, and 13% are employed (Alfred Nzo Nodal Economic Development Profile). This is a practical example of the CWP beneficiaries earning no more than R1 000 a month, and yes, this is above the poverty line but not sufficient. Water is challenging for those practicing agriculture and benefiting from rural development agriculture programmes. Due to limited water in rural areas, accessing water for agricultural and domestic purposes becomes difficult. Without water, agriculture or farming cannot thrive.

One cannot talk about rural development without agriculture. However, this sector is often looked down upon by the youth and is mainly dominated by older people; even for the CWP agriculture sector in Alfred Nzo eMaxesibeni, the dominating group is older people between 40 and 55 years of age, and very few youth groups. Also, not much support is provided to those practicing subsistence farming. Youth often leave rural areas for urban areas (Majova, 2018). Additionally, sponsors and investors are

no longer invested in or attracted to practicing agriculture, which is one reason this sector is not blossoming. However, women are the pillars of agriculture in the Eastern Cape. Women dominate this sector more than men. For example, women participate in livestock farming, crop cultivation, and fish farming. Unfortunately, women do not fully obtain support as there is a shortage of rural development programmes for women practicing farming and agriculture across the country and even within the Eastern Cape province (Mahlombe, 2018).

It is believed that the Eastern Cape is one of the disadvantaged provinces despite having many political leaders born there; they include the well-known apartheid activists former president Nelson Mandela, Thabo Mbeki, and Robert Managalisobukhwe. Many rural programmes have been introduced (discussed in chapter three, some to be discussed in chapter five), to mention a few: the CWP, EPWP, Siyazondla, Massive Food Production Programme and many more, but rural development is still lagging behind and becoming worse, as years pass by. People in the Eastern Cape (Alfred Nzo Emaxesibeni included) continue to experience high rural and household poverty and earn below the national poverty line. Even today, in most households, the primary source of income is the old age grant, which is also not enough to feed the whole family (Kativhu & Nomabandla, 2022). This makes one wonder what the problem could be. Do the development agencies and local government not understand how to go about rural development or do not understand the context of rural and community development?

I confidently conclude that rural development and social change in former Homelands require proper planning strategies and land availability. Even in 2024, there are still issues of poor development in the Eastern Cape's rural areas, such as the deteriorating infrastructure and prolonged service delivery. Before every election year, people are promised better lives and change, but the leaders fail to deliver their promises. However, rural parts of the Eastern Cape are always shown at checkpoints and on cutting-edge television shows about service delivery and underdevelopment issues. The high unemployment issues and slow development drive people away from their rural communities to urban areas. This is causing many challenges for urban

areas as they might fail to offer extra housing services for the additional residents. Migration to urban areas challenges the ability of these urban areas to accommodate new residents (Van Schalkwyk, 2015).

3.5.1 Poor Rural Development Causes Rural-Urban Migration

Arguably, migration from rural to urban areas impacts the development of rural areas and agriculture and even the success of rural development programmes implemented by the government across developing countries. This is because rural-urban migration challenges available labour and causes poor rural agricultural income (Mbatha & Mofokeng, 2021). The issue of rural areas being neglected contributes to the high rate of rural-urban migration. In this study, rural-urban migration is described as the voluntary movement of people from their rural communities to cities such as Johannesburg, Cape Town, Pretoria, and Durban because of a lack of service delivery, rural development, and employment opportunities in rural areas. They relocate to urban areas or cities for better living standards and opportunities. This indicates that the government has failed rural communities regarding social change and community development.

Mthiyane, Wissink and Chiwawa (2022) state that rural-urban migration has many causes. In rural areas, there are limited opportunities, poor infrastructure, and corruption. These issues lead to people packing their bags and leaving their rural areas for cities. They further state that in South African rural areas, most people migrate as there are less sustainable investment opportunities in rural areas compared to urban areas. Ntshidi (2021) found similar results when she conducted a cross-sectional study by obtaining data from archives; she found that better opportunities and infrastructure attract people to urban areas. This shows high-level opportunity inequalities between rural and urban areas, which is a challenge.

Besides better living standards and improved well-being in rural areas, some rural people try to stay in these rural areas with the hope that something will come up. For example, my sisters and I stayed in Alfred Nzo eMaxesibeni for more than three years to obtain qualifications with the hope that something, even if it were an internship,

would eventually come up. However, nothing was promising, and we eventually saw the need to relocate to other provinces for employment opportunities and to find the jobs or internships we were looking for in Cape Town and Pretoria. This shows that the rural communities have people willing to stay, but they migrate because they must work to support themselves and their families. This is similar to Haas and Marie-Laurence (2016); Arndt, Davies, and Thurlow (2018) and Ntshidi (2021), who found that people who graduated from tertiary education migrate more than those with no post-matric level qualification in South Africa. This is mainly due to uneven opportunities in urban and rural areas, as urban areas are perceived to have more opportunities than rural areas. This implies that rural areas are losing skilled people who may contribute to rural development and social change.

Mthiyane et al. (2022) support this as they further state that the migration of qualified rural people denies rural communities knowledgeable employees who have the potential to play a vital role in rural development. Due to this, these skilled workers end up using their skills to develop the already developed cities, and this worsens rural development and poverty in rural areas as they are left with minimal skilled people to participate in rural development and bring social change. Shezi (2013); Mlambo (2018) agree that due to rural-urban migration, rural communities are losing innovators, critical thinkers, developers, change agents, researchers and specialists who would use their skills to put their rural communities on the map, and this leads to them using their skills, knowledge and expertise to develop the urban areas. If matters continue this way, the local governments will never win the fight against rural underdevelopment, poor social change and poverty issues.

The migration of rural people to urban areas has caused multiple challenges both in urban and rural areas. As stated by the World Bank (2018), cities and urban areas are forced to increase their service delivery and urban development services to cater to new people who have joined them due to the increased population in urban areas. The urban areas face issues such as traffic congestion, housing shortages, and the health sector under much greater strain. There are also challenges faced in rural areas, but rural communities neglect rural development due to fewer people in rural areas and

the rural areas being dominated by older people. Many people leave their children with grandparents, and grandparents have to feed these children using their old age grants and being the only available people to participate in rural development implemented programmes, which might be why the CWP agriculture sector has so many older people compared to the youth, as the youth left rural areas for better opportunities. However, rural-urban migration also positively impacts or affects rural communities in some families and communities.

Once the rural-urban migrants have found opportunities such as employment, they send money home so that the family members left behind can fight poverty and afford essential services such as food, clothing, and shelter. For example, in Nigeria, Ajaero and Onokala (2013) note that rural-urban migrants form societies that aim to support and empower rural areas. The migrants from the same rural communities come together to develop rural community organisations. This organisation is a platform to think about and discuss rural development issues and even start initiatives to support rural development projects in rural areas, such as awarding scholarships for rural students (Ajaero & Onokala, 2013). Through these efforts, people who leave rural areas can empower each other and support those who cannot relocate. For example, in a South African context in one of the Eastern Cape rural areas, Njwambe, Cocks and Vetter (2019) found that men migrate for better opportunities where they can find money, save it and return home to buy livestock such as cattle and to be able to be providers for their families for self-dignity and self-respect, as sitting at home waiting for government grants diminishes their dignity as men.

On the other hand, rural areas are under-resourced in terms of schools. If the infrastructure is poor, parents relocate to cities to avoid sending their children to overcrowded schools with deteriorating infrastructure. They are attracted to cities because of the quality of education and networking possibilities. For example, Njwambe et al. (2019) related a study participant who shared that, after completing grade 10, he relocated to Cape Town to obtain a better and improved education, and others went to pursue their post-school qualifications. Residents of rural areas use migration as a survival strategy to escape the poor life experienced in rural areas. The

rural development stakeholders need to prioritise and foster rural development to avoid losing human resources and able-bodied youth for cities, as this affects the rural economy. Because rural development programmes are ineffective, people in rural areas consider staying in cities preferable compared to rural life, and people tend to envy that preferred life.

While other scholars feel that agriculture is the answer for rural development and reduces rural-urban migration, Rahman and Chowdhury (2023) share a different view as they observe that, in Bangladesh, high dependency on agricultural activities and farming in rural areas is not attractive and pushes people to leave the rural areas to find different, non-agricultural opportunities. This is evidence that rural development must be diversified and not only be dominated by agricultural activities. In a South African context, Mlambo (2018) believes that the agriculture sector is still relevant for rural development; however, for it to be effective and attract many people and youth, there must be capacity-building programmes around agriculture; this would empower and contribute to the development of people in rural areas, as they would be trained about farming and be given a skill to grow their food and even open related businesses for their livelihood.

I argue that agriculture investment has the potential to curb the growing number of rural-urban migration in South Africa, especially within the Eastern Cape Provinces; the rural areas in the Eastern Cape, such as eMaxesibeni in Alfred Nzo and other rural communities, have a potential to fight the rural-urban migration and take themselves out of the poverty-stricken circle of life. However, this needs investment in rural areas, infrastructure, and agriculture to ensure water availability for agricultural activities (Bakre & Dorasamy, 2017; Arndt et al., 2018). So, without any rural development improvement, the people in rural areas have no choice but to seek better opportunities in urban areas (Rahman & Chowdhury, 2023). Mlambo (2018) recommends that, for the South African government to attract people back to rural areas, there must be employment benefits involved for working in rural areas, and this will not only motivate people to remain in rural areas but also improve service delivery and participate in rural development and keep the skills within rural areas.

I argue that because of hunger and poverty in rural areas, people see no hope of development, and the only way for them is to relocate. For example, about 80% of South Africa's population is estimated to reside in urban areas. This will hinder the implementation and progress of rural development. As noted by Mlambo (2018), the government, in terms of rural development and rural investment, is failing as even in 2024, there are still infrastructure issues, a lack of health and education facilities and graduates with no employment, and a lack of funding for entrepreneurship skills and small businesses. Therefore, it is not surprising that South Africa is rapidly urbanising.

Issues around land and land reform in South Africa are deeply rooted in apartheid and colonial rule. Much of the country's land issue and isolation of Homelands are the result of the pre-colonial, colonial and apartheid regimes (Jankielsohn & Duvenhage, 2018). Most of the Homelands and rural areas were isolated. Settlements throughout the country were governed by colonial rule, which favoured violent conquest, and the apartheid era constituted dispossession, displacement and deprivation of land. Sol Plaatje's political tract in South Africa's most well-known quote is "Awakening on Friday morning, June 20, 1913, the South African native found himself, not a slave, but a pariah in the land of his birth" (Plaut & Holden, 2012:1). This signifies the basis for the hope that a democratic South Africa may realise the need for redistribution and recompense. Even after 30 years of democracy, the country still faces land issues. Will the country ever resolve the land issues, and rightful landowners have their land returned and even be compensated for their loss of land? What is development without land ownership? The land accessibility challenges the rural eMaxesibeni CWP garden projects.

There are numerous debates and discussions about land issues, and everyone has their view on how the government should resolve this issue; it has gained so much attention even outside the country. This is not a surprise as the country is one of the countries that was colonised, and due to that, poverty and unemployment are prevalent, and the leading cause is the issue of land. For example, issues of poverty in rural areas are the result of the isolation of the Homelands and loss of land during colonialism in South Africa. Even today in the country, the former Homelands,

especially rural areas, are poverty-stricken, and there is high inequality between the urban areas and the former Homelands, especially in the Eastern Cape province. Most of these inequality and poverty issues can be traced back to the segregation laws and Apartheid land issues that separated most people classified “Bantu”, later ‘African’ Blacks from their land to remote areas where there was no fertile land; for example, the Promulgation of the Land Act of 1913, which controlled 10% of land for lawful African livelihood and chased Africans off their land (Sikwela, Tshuma & Tshabalala, 2018). It is wellknown that farming and agricultural activities are the main contributors to many livelihoods in developing countries; however, how can farming be successful when the farmers do not have access to tools and fertile land? It is because of these land issues that the South African democratic government in 1994 introduced the Land Reform Programme (LRP). LRP was a strategy to address the abovementioned inequalities and unequal and unfair distribution of land (Sikwela et al., 2018). The LRP has experienced both successes and failures since its implementation.

The LRP received much criticism from scholars and citizens of the country. For example, it is said that political organisations and people are angered by the failure of the state to redistribute land through the LRP as promised during the programme's introduction (Binswanger-Mkhize, 2014). One of the other challenges that is voiced by the public is that even after the introduction of the land policies and LRP, poverty issues continue to grow alarmingly in most rural areas. As a result, unemployment grows daily, and people fail to obtain jobs in agriculture's primary and secondary sectors. For example, despite the LRP, many beneficiaries of the land have been unsuccessful in securing the resources and product markets for their harvest. Therefore, there is minimal production, and poverty is increasing (Aliber & Cousins, 2013).

3.6 SOUTH AFRICAN POVERTY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AGRICULTURE SUPPORT PROGRAMMES

South Africa has introduced various agriculture support programmes for social change and rural development. However, it still faces the highest poverty and unemployment issues. South Africa, across the globe, is viewed as the most unequal country in the world, and the World Bank (2018) suggests that their policies must aim for poverty alleviation, employment creation and rural development. The agricultural sector is considered the most critical practice in ending this inequality and poverty and is the future of South Africa (Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, 2018). Phoofolo (2018) contends that investment in agriculture may contribute significantly to the community and rural development as many rural areas were excluded from economic growth. Thus, African countries, including South African rural communities, are the poorest of the poor with poor development. According to Bertolini (2019), neglecting rural development and community work adversely affects the rural economy and economic growth. If rural development, agriculture support programmes and rural policy are not prioritised to address the triple challenges in rural areas; this will worsen rural poverty and increase division between rural and urban areas, further worsen inequality, and this may cause more urbanisation and rural-urban migration, resulting in the urban areas becoming overcrowded and increasing social challenges. Therefore, there is a need for effective and efficient social change and community work in rural areas to ensure that people are active participants in economic growth and community work projects and policies implemented.

Poverty and community development require commitment and will not happen overnight, but it is possible through practical programmes and policies. Community works and rural development of former Homelands are long-term commitments requiring proper planning and practical implementation strategies. Rural development and poverty policies and programmes are the mandates of the NGOs and government (Brynard, 2011).

3.6.1 Local Economic Development (LED) and agriculture programmes as a catalyst for community development and social change

LED programmes and projects are introduced to achieve community work and the economic growth of rural areas. The CoGTA describes LED as an economic strategy that allows and fosters local people collaboration for sustainable growth and development of the economy; by doing so, people in a given municipality may improve their lives and livelihoods (Mlambo, Ndebele & Zubane, 2019). LED is a critical strategy in fighting unemployment and poverty in rural areas (Phago & Tsoabisi, 2020). The agriculture sector and local departments of agriculture play a critical role in implementing LED programmes and projects in a given municipal area. Nkgudi, Maake and Masekoameng (2022) highlight a few LED agriculture projects and programmes that aim for local and national economic growth and rural development. These programmes are not limited to the Lima-Letsema programme, Homestead Food Gardens and Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP). The main objectives of these programmes are to fight food insecurity, create employment opportunities, increase food production and achieve sustainable livelihood in rural areas through the agriculture sector. Through these programmes, people may be supported to participate in agriculture, grow their food, make a profit, and escape poverty. These programmes' aims are similar to those of CWPs and were introduced because the previous programmes failed.

In 1997, the South African government introduced the homestead food garden programme to improve former Homelands' rural development regarding poverty, unemployment and hunger. This programme was associated with the encouragement and improvement of the livelihoods of households, which was done through surplus production sales from homestead food gardens. The process of implementation involved contracting a service provider to supply agricultural inputs such as garden tools, vegetable seeds, inorganic fertiliser, watering cans and compost (Tesfamariam, Owusu-Sekyere, Emmanuel & Elizabeth, 2018). Ngcaba and Maroyi (2021) argue that added agricultural products, which include vegetables and fruits, are grown or planted and or/cultivated in household garden sites or yards and staple, leading cash and food

yields, for example, the Zea mays (maize), are also widely planted or cultivated. This programme support follows sustainable agricultural productivity methods in realising food security, fighting household hunger, and promoting rural economic growth in rural communities.

This programme has reached some success as it has sustained households and improved people's livelihoods by enabling households to sell their produce. Therefore, homestead food garden activities support and help offer food and add supplementary income or salaries for vulnerable groups and families (Tlalang, Bahta & Lombard, 2019). This programme supports the poor and disadvantaged households, who benefit as poverty is reduced. For example, through this support programme initiative, many communities in South Africa are afforded food, and their livelihoods have improved. The FAO (2010) considers household gardens as an investment for vulnerable communities and households to assist them in affording food and making extra income. For example, families can invest or use the money to purchase food in the future.

One of the failures of this programme is that most people benefiting from and participating are older adults. However, a study by Meyer and Nishimwe-Niyimbanira (2016) revealed that women tend to be actively involved in agriculture once they grow older. Even though, in the Eastern Cape province and its rural communities, the homestead gardens are an imperative and critical source of food plants, many households depend not only on agriculture practices for food but also receive government grants. They often use the homestead gardens as an extra income or, instead of buying food from shops, it is harvested from their cultivated gardens. However, land is an issue as some do not have access to healthy and fertile land for homestead gardens, especially in the Eastern Cape. Additionally, the majority of home gardens do not achieve good production or yields, and this is caused by issues such as poor land type, inadequate capital, poor training and education level and lack of ability to assume risk (Shackleton, Paumgarten & Cocks, 2008). These issues are evidence of poor social change and community work in rural former Homelands.

In 2008, the agriculture support programme Llima-Letsema was introduced. It was introduced to increase household agriculture consumption and productivity. It aims to support small-scale and subsistence farmers (Nkgudi et al., 2022). 'Letsema' and 'Lima' are synonymous and often interchangeable. However, llima comes from the Zulu word, which means ukulima and is translated into English as cultivating or planting land. Historically, the Blacks depended on agrarian production, using their land to grow crops for consumption and cultivation of land was the main socio-economic activity (Twala, 2018). The Letsema programme was mainly introduced to support farmers in promoting sustainable agricultural activities and methods and promoting households' sustainable livelihoods in communities in rural areas.

Greenberg, Swanepoel and Lewis (2018) state that the Llima-Letsema programme sought to eradicate South Africa's triple challenges, the legacy of apartheid in communities, by promoting good food production for disadvantaged communities and families, including women, youth and small-scale farmers. Since implementing this programme, the government has spent over R3 billion [Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), 2017]. However, despite the money spent, it did not reduce unemployment, poverty and inequality in rural communities. It managed to reduce the income difference between small- and large-scale farmers. Commendably, as a result of this programme, some farmers managed to create job opportunities and profit from agricultural activities.

To improve the former Eastern Cape province Homelands, the CRDP was introduced. The CRDP only focuses on rural areas of poverty and community work and aims to empower women. Many rural areas have implemented the CRDP since 2009 (Maluleke, 2019). The CRDP focuses on agricultural infrastructure, training, advisory services, promotion and upgrading agricultural colleges. One of the mandates is to guarantee land reform using redistribution and restitution, which is more comprehensibly related to fostering and encouraging livelihoods for people experiencing poverty (Presidency, 2009). The CRDP recommends a development strategy that puts the needs of the people, household, community and space at the forefront. The CRDP assumes that rural areas have the potential for job creation and

economic growth and would limit rural-urban migration. Thus, the CRDP is a nationwide shared act to fight poverty, hunger, unemployment, poor development and community work in rural areas (DRDLR, 2013). The DRDLR states that the CRDP aims to foster joint development and social unity through participatory strategies and methods where all sectors in rural areas collaborate. Thus, the idea of the CRDP was to foster and encourage unbiased and sustainable rural communities (Maluleke, 2019). The following are the areas that were piloted for CRDP: Muyexe, Riemvasmaak, Mkhondo, Diyatalawa/ Mokohloko, Mhlontlo, Dysseisdorp, Msinga, Disake/Matlametlong/Mokgalaneng & Gauteng (Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, 2009).

To effectively implement the CRDP, a community profile is a requirement, and different stakeholders are involved in this process, including the community leaders, traditional leaders, councillors, ward committees and technical committees; there is also implementation of forums and political champions, and communities are encouraged to be active participants in CRDP initiatives (similar to CWP implementation). Different government departments and strategies stakeholders are encouraged to foster the realisation of community basic needs and form a conducive atmosphere for economic growth and sustainable livelihoods. These livelihoods will be achieved through skills development prioritisation, public works employment, forming and supporting small businesses in rural communities, encouraging farming food and vegetable communities and household gardens, and starting and supporting smallholder farmers and subsistence producers (DRDLR, 2013).

Through the CRDP, former president Jacob Zuma promised that this programme would encourage rural communities to grow their own food. This implies that instead of having to depend on money and go to supermarkets or shops for food, households must cultivate their food, and by doing this, food would be affordable. The former president also promised social change through agriculture and prioritising rural areas for service delivery such as education, health, housing, water, sanitation and energy (The Presidency, 2009). As Sprinkhuizen and Masangu (2016) stated, not all CRDP projects achieved the objectives equally well. However, the programme achieved

some success as people's basic needs, such as food, were met. It failed dismally to create employment opportunities in communities due to limited government resources. For example, the employment opportunities it created were depressingly low, the salaries were meagre and very short-term employment was offered. This thesis argues that the programme monitors and assessors suggested that the CRDP promote and advance its organisational methods and strategies, foster its rural job creation model, and emphasise value for money and sustainability.

The CRDP food garden projects achieved more success than others, but they were severely affected by water shortages, negatively impacting the food productivity of families and households. The community gardens were severely affected by this. This led to the majority of many other livelihood projects being negatively impacted. The CRDP failed to provide small businesses with financial support to start a business, lacking technical training, support, mentorship, or conducive market connections (Sprinkhuizen & Masangu, 2016). The CRDP failed to add significant value to land reform. In many case studies, rural communities noted that poor access to land is the leading cause and issue in achieving food security, for example, and a challenge to accessing healthy food and achieving sustainable rural livelihood. The CRDP's role in fostering and encouraging smallholder farmers and offering them more support has also been limited.

3.7 CWP AND EPWP AS PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMMES AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

PWPs in South Africa are one of the most prominent strategies introduced by National Public Works and implemented by local governments to address South Africa's triple challenges (Biyase & Bromberger, 2015). The PWP in South African communities is mostly donor-funded and has a history of providing temporary poverty relief to disadvantaged households and communities. PEPs are introduced with the intention to offer adequate social support to destitute communities and act as a safety net to protect families from the hostile challenges of unemployment in the short to medium

term. After democracy, addressing the former Homeland's rural livelihood and hunger through government programmes has become part of the new government's priorities (Dlala, 2020).

After apartheid, there was a pressing urgency to fight the growing poverty issues and unemployment challenges; one of the most significant interventions introduced by the government was the National Public Works Programme (NPWP). The NPWP was introduced to address joblessness through community resources and assets. The Community-Based Public Works Programme (CBPWP) comes from the NPWP, which is related to promoting mainstream public expenditure and infrastructure promotion through labour-intensive PEP strategies (Phillips, 2004). The Department of Public Works introduced and implemented the CBPWP between 1998 and 2003 (Heradien, 2013). PWP's are often implemented by CBOs, and the government provides funds to implement and monitor the PW projects. This is similar to the implementation of CWP, as previously, the government contracted an NGO/NPO for its implementation. However, through interviews, I found that the government recalled the programme due to corruption. Corruption and mismanagement of funds are challenges for social change in Homelands and rural development programmes.

CBPWP mainly targeted the most disadvantaged communities in rural areas, including the Eastern Cape's rural districts. It aimed to provide livelihoods by improving assets that encourage and promote local economic and social development. It was envisioned to offer rapid and noticeable relief to the destitute and to foster community capacity for growth. The annual funds allocated for the programme were R350 million, and the number of job opportunities between 1998 and 2004 was about 130,000 (Giqwa, 2011). However, these employment opportunities were mainly temporary, unsustainable, and meant for low-income people. Despite the temporary nature of the jobs created since its implementation, most people were empowered with skills and livelihood. This programme also fostered and supported the government's Integrated and Sustainable Rural Development Strategy. Since its implementation, this programme has delivered about 713 CBPWP projects across rural areas (Department of Public Works, 2001). Despite the jobs and projects created by the programme, it

failed to address the targeted issues of poverty and unemployment that the country faces. After the failure of CBPWP, Thabo Mbeki introduced EPWP.

3.7.1 EPWP overview and reason for its introduction

In February 2003, during the State of the Nation address, former president Thabo Mbeki announced the introduction of the EPWP. Later, the EPWP was approved in June 2003 at the Growth and Development Summit (GDS). At the GDS, the government, labour unions, businesses and community leaders met to negotiate and decide on different interventions that could be introduced and implemented to address the apartheid triple challenges. Later, during the same year, which was November 2003, the Cabinet formally approved and adopted the EPWP. In May 2004, the EPWP was officially launched by Thabo Mbeki. The EPWP is one of the national government strategies implemented in all levels of governance and government-owned businesses (Final EPWP consolidated overview – v6. 28-06-04). The history of the EPWP can be traced back to the RDP goals, which the ANC government also introduced.

The RDP strategy saw the EPWP as an intervention that could foster job creation and promote the economic growth of rural areas where disadvantaged households can meet their basic needs. It also acts as a strategy to address the infrastructure and economic inequalities created by the apartheid government (ANC, 1994). The programme is implemented in phases one to five. It is currently in its fifth phase of implementation (Chiloane, 2020). Looking at the challenges of poverty and unemployment, especially in former Homelands, EPWP was seen as an effective measure to address the growing issues of unemployment and hunger levels, as many people lived below the poverty line. Collaboration with local departments, CBOs and NGOs was crucial for its implementation. It focused on providing labour-intensive work, which was done through government-funded projects intending to foster and produce millions of job opportunities (Mkhwanazi, 2019).

The key mandate of the EPWP was mainly focused on three main functions: creating job opportunities, improving local infrastructure, and promoting essential services (ANC, 1994). The enactment of EPWP arose as a call that aimed to resolve job

insecurities, joblessness and underemployment related to neo-liberal policies. EPWP, throughout the different levels of the state, mainly focused on skills development, empowering the youth with job-relevant skills that will allow them to compete in the labour market (Matsiliza, 2018). The primary department that is responsible for the EPWP is the DPWI, and DPWI stipulates that the programme targets the jobless and vulnerable, individuals with limited or lack technical, work exposure and generic skills, individuals on social assistance programmes, people in need, women, youth and individuals who live with disabilities. DPWI, as a form of empowering underprivileged communities such as the eMaxesibeni, stated that the participants of the EPWP would be hired temporarily for the EPWP projects while at the same time gaining skills through attending various training programmes such as leadership, internships and Work Integrated Programmes (WIPs). Additionally, the EPWP participants, in terms of the projects being introduced, would work under government departments and state-owned businesses where they would be providing goods and services.

Through participating in EPWP's different projects, the beneficiaries can gain critical skills such as plumbing, bricklaying, welding, gardening and electrical skills (Kobedi et al., 2022), which may be used to secure permanent employment once the EPWP projects are completed, as they are often temporary. The skills can also be used for self-employment in entrepreneurship and furthering studies (DPWI, 2004). For example, by completing all the training and workshops, even though they can be limited because of budget constraints, the beneficiaries can possess the required labour market skills, experience and knowledge. They will be able to gain sustainable work opportunities. The EPWP document stresses that the EPWP participants are empowered with significant livelihood skills and avenues that would allow them to be absorbed by the labour market, and it will enable income generations for many disadvantaged and needy households. However, this programme aims to address issues such as the structural nature of the unemployment crisis. Furthermore, it is simply one component within a more complex government method to address poverty by reducing and fighting unemployment (Final EPWP consolidated overview – v6. 28-06-04). Are the targeted groups seeing and experiencing anticipated change by the

EPWP just another well-written policy document sounding like a Wishlist with no proper implementation and monitoring?

In agreement with the EPWP targeted group, Phillips (2004) alludes to the fact that the EPWP's primary mandate is poverty alleviation, and this can be done by providing many job opportunities which are only targeted at the women, youth and people living with disability, and these jobs will be provided through training programmes and income generating opportunities. Johannes (2016) is in support of this as he further contends that EPWP efforts are to lessen poverty and offer income relief, which can be achieved through providing scarce skills empowerment and various short-term training. This is done so that the beneficiaries of EPWP can find formal and sustainable jobs after exiting the EPWP. As stated in Chapter One, this EPWP is one of the central government strategies used as a response to apartheid issues and legacies, and it is implemented in four sectors, which are infrastructure, environment, non-state and the social sector. It is meant for unemployed people with limited or lack of employment exposure skills and who are willing to participate in EPWP projects and is also meant to assist women, who are non-recipients of grants [EPWP Phase-One 2004/5 – 2008/9. Five Year Report]. The following are four sectors of EPWP, which are briefly defined.

3.7.1.1 Infrastructure sector

The main objective of the infrastructure sector is to ensure that provincial infrastructure, such as social infrastructure (educational facilities, healthcare facilities, road maintenance, and office upgrading and renovation), is well maintained and renovated. The sector is controlled and directed by the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, which collaborates with the Departments of Transport, Provincial and Local Government, Water Affairs and Forestry, Minerals and Energy, and Sports and Recreation.

3.7.1.2 Environmental and Cultural Sector

This sector focuses on ensuring that the environment is clean and eco-friendly. This includes cleaning and planting trees/vegetation, as well as the promotion of the country's cultural diversity. This sector alone intended to create about 201,703 employment opportunities, and this was to be achieved through collaborating with programmes which include Agriculture Land Care, the People and Parks programme, Coastal Care, Sustainable Land-based Livelihoods, Cleaning up the Country, Growing a Tourism Economy, and the Working for Water, Wetlands and Fire programmes. However, this sector was able to create more than 6 113 job prospects, of which 62% are youth, 57% are women and 0.16% are people living with disabilities.

3.7.1.3 Non-state sector

The sector is divided into two sets of programmes:

- The first one includes institutional-oriented programmes where non-state actors, typically not catering to non-state actor organisations, faith-based organisations, and community-based organisations, introduce and implement programmes that may foster income for most people through socially constructive projects. The type of project would be determined by the non-state actor, with the government offering fractional funding for quantified costs and wages.
- The second set of programmes focuses on community-based programmes, which involve community organisations to support strategies that foster employment in methods that empower citizens or community-level goods and services. This method provides substantial scope for work outputs to be implemented according to a community's different requirements and introduced at the community level with limited funding from the state.
- The non-state sector created more than 4,092 employment prospects, including 60% youth, 57% women and 2.17% people with disabilities.

3.7.1.4 Social sector

The social sector's central departments that implement it are the Departments of Social Development, Education and Health. Considerable work done by these departments above depends on the resources of volunteers and civil societies. The social sector includes programmes such as Early Childhood Development (ECD) and Home Community Based Care (HCBC). These programmes are highly labour-intensive. The EPWP offers a prospect to work with these volunteers and grow or gain valuable skills and the ability to provide quality service in communities that are often vulnerable and poor.

3.7.2 EPWP impact on rural community development and livelihood

As found by Hlantshwayo (2017) in his EPWP qualitative study, EPWP beneficiaries have gained some sense of livelihood. They are pleased with the income that they are earning as they were previously unemployed. Their income allows them to buy essentials and overcome hunger and poverty challenges. In some families, the monthly stipend serves as an alternative income source. For example, some beneficiaries depend on social grants for survival, but now they have salaries other than government grants. Most of the beneficiaries in Hlatshwayo's (2017) study alluded to the fact that the EPWP has brought significant change and improvement in their lives as they can put food on the table and support their households. However, some beneficiaries felt that the stipend needed to be higher to meet their basic needs as the cost of living is high and food is so expensive. Apart from the stipend issues, the EPWP projects have fostered community participation and a sense of ownership.

In some communities, it has been found that the EPWP project has fostered and strengthened the sense of participation and decision-making. For example, the community members become more involved in planning, implementing and administering different EPWP project activities (Nyoka, 2016). When the community is involved in the planning phase, they are empowered with decision making skills, resources and community assets, and this leads to the community having a sense of ownership and sustaining the different implemented projects, leading to sustainability

(Mudau, 2021). Moreover, as agreed by Johannes (2016), the different EPWP projects provide prospects for rural community members and leaders to be involved in decision-making and to have a forum to share their views, which fosters their sense of control. For example, where the community is actively engaged, the community members are involved during all phases of project cycles, such as planning, implementation and other activities, and through this active involvement, they gain a sense of responsibility and trust. The development programmes are likely to prosper and lead to rural social change when well introduced and implemented.

The EPWP has a pivotal role in poverty and offering essential goods and services to rural communities as, in some areas, infrastructure has been improved. For example, pavements and improvement of the existing infrastructure, and through such projects, targeted local community members are empowered and employed (Oguntona, Akinradewo, Kgoetyane, Ogunbayo & Aigbavboa, 2023). Millions of jobs have been created nationwide, and skills have been developed. This means there is some sense of social change and development in rural areas compared to before 1994.

As alluded to above, the EPWP is divided into different phases; phase one, which came to an end in 2009, was able to create about 1 million employment opportunities across the four sectors. This implies that about 1 million beneficiaries have gained or have been empowered with essential and relevant skills, training and work experience to search for sustainable employment. As agreed by Chiloane (2020), the EPWP beneficiaries have been empowered with temporary job opportunities. Additionally, only some of the beneficiaries saw the positive contributions made by EPWP in their lives. EPWP beneficiaries felt that, due to high unemployment in South Africa, they were forced to participate in EPWP, or they would die because of hunger, which means that the socioeconomic challenges, especially in rural areas, and the lack of employment opportunities forced them into this programme. Some believed that by participating in this programme, they could support their families as they would quickly find sustainable jobs. This means that the beneficiaries saw this as their last resort to be employed since the government has failed to create sustainable employment opportunities.

As indicated by a study conducted by Hlatshwayo (2017), the different South African labour sectors employ the EPWP beneficiaries to offer local services, which includes cleaning and maintaining infrastructure, but the employment of these beneficiaries is mainly temporary, not sustainable and risky; for example, there is no employment security, the stipend is too low, and there are no employment benefits such as medical aid or pension fund. Hlatshwayo's (2017) study participants shared that, even though they are grateful about being provided with employment through this programme, they are experiencing challenges such as health and safety issues, and there are no organised labour organisations.

According to the DPWI (2019), more than 4.5 million employment prospects were created during the 3rd phase. The DPWI (2019) reports that, of the 4.5 million employment opportunities created, about 66% were women, 46% were youth, and 1% were people with disabilities. The third phase began in 2015; the Public Works department shared an amount of R41 billion with needy and disadvantaged people and households to ensure that people experiencing poverty have food and are well-rested. As stated by DPWI (2023), Indaba EPWP Phase Five was held in conjunction with the EPWP Phase Four constraints and achievements, which provides information regarding the employment prospects created and the programme's contribution in the past four years. The DPWI (2023) reports that, since 06 October 2023, 610 882 employment opportunities have been created; however, this is about 58.8% of realising its 2023/2024 financial year targets. Ultimately, for the EPWP Phase Four (2019/20-2023/24), the EPWP has significantly provided more than 4.5 million employment prospects out of the target of 5 million job opportunities for March 2024.

In Minister Zikalala's keynote address, DPWI (2023) shared that in the centre of structural unemployment, the EPWP focuses critically and emphasises addressing rural hunger, poverty and unemployment issues. For example, the beneficiaries are provided with small business development to empower them to be independent and to generate their income. The government prospered in its goal of fostering jobs through the programme, providing for people experiencing poverty, and meeting the employer's role, which was the last alternative where the market could have been more

successful in creating employment. Apart from numerous jobs created, the programme ensured that essential services were provided to rural destitute communities such as the areas of Alfred Nzo district in eMaxesibeni.

Sectors	Number of projects	Gross Number of Work Opportunities Created (01 APR 2021 to 30 SEP 2021)	Youth	Women	People with disability
Infrastructure Sector	3,717	213,799	35.54%	62.59%	0.55%
Environment and Culture Sector	2,249	105,758	53.85%	58.31%	0.87%
Social Sector	3,042	177,834	43.17%	79.95%	0.55%
Non-State Sector Community Work Programme	223	219,261	20.39%	80.12%	1.66%
NATIONAL TOTAL	9,231	716,652	35.50%	71.63%	0.94%

Table 3.7.2 (a): National EPWP 2021/22 progress report for opportunity created (EPWP Annexures A-E Quarterly Report 2021/22).

Table 3.7.2 (a) provides an overview of the national progress made by the EPWP in different sectors regarding the number of projects introduced and the number of employment opportunities created during the 2021/22 financial year. For example, the infrastructure sector introduced 3717 projects, and the employment opportunities were 213,799. However, even though the infrastructure sector introduced more projects when compared to other industries, it is not leading in terms of the number of employment opportunities created, as the Non-State Sector Community Work Programme had the most miniature (223) projects created, but in terms of employment opportunities created, it is leading, as it created 219,261 employment opportunities nationally. Additionally, the Environment and Culture Sector implemented 2,249 projects and employed 105,758. The Social Sector had 3,042 projects, and employment opportunities were 177,834. The employment opportunities across all four sectors are divided according to youth, women and people living with disabilities.

Province	Number of projects	Gross Number of Work Opportunities Created (01 APR 2021 to 30 SEP 2021)	Youth	Women	People with disabilities
Eastern Cape	1,318	157,983	34.28%	67.94%	1.06%

Table 3.7.2 (b): Eastern Cape Province EPWP 2021/22 progress report for the opportunity created (EPWP Annexures A-E Quarterly Report 2021/22).

The table above illustrates the EPWP's progress during the 2021/22 year. The Eastern Cape introduced 1,318 projects under EPWP, and 157,983 employment opportunities were created from those projects. This means 157,983 people were employed to participate in those projects. Of the 157 983 employed, 34,28% were youth, 67,94% were women and 1.06% belonged to people with disabilities.

3.8 OVERVIEW OF CWP AND ITS TARGETS

Kate Philip is a development scholar and government development strategist who introduced the CWP in rural areas, and the presidency asked her to think of a programme that could employ about 50,000 individuals. For Philip to be able to come forward with this, she was motivated by a conference she attended in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (Shumba, 2017). The CWP is not a standalone programme as it is an offshoot and in support of the EPWP. It was introduced as the EPWP second phase part. Community-based or community participation addresses former Homelands, poor rural development and poverty (Philip, 2013). It is a national programme implemented in local communities by NPOs and community leadership. Participatory and ABCD approaches to implementing this programme are critical as they aim to address the community's needs by coming up with solutions to their challenges (Philip, 2013; Andersson & Alexander, 2016). It targets impoverished rural areas such as eMxesibeni in Alfred Nzo, where it was first piloted and aims to improve the standard of living and fight hunger and unemployment in rural areas through community members using their capabilities. Additionally, the CWP aims to reduce poverty levels

and the inequality gap in rural poor communities by generating jobs, empowering them and developing training (Qengqa & Ndaguba, 2018).

It is evident from the CWP policy document that its primary mandate is to empower poor communities by providing social and economic inclusion and giving regular part-time jobs to people from vulnerable groups and households. For example, it fosters the poorest to have a stable monthly wage and to work for only eight days a month as beneficiaries and as site supervisors for 20 days. The programme is community-orientated as it uses public employment as an answer for community development (Andersson & Alexander, 2016). As stated before, it is a national programme that seeks to bring the promised community development social change to rural poor people; however, it is institutionalised in the Department of Cooperative Governance (DCoG), but critical implementers are NPOs, and that is why it is considered as a participatory community development strategy. The local government officials, including ward committees, councillors and other key community stakeholders, contribute to advisory reference groups at the site level (Malose, 2021). The community and local government stakeholders are essential as they promote development capacity in civil society, fostering the scope for a new form of collaboration amongst the government, civil society and communities.

The work done in CWP is considered regular part-time work as the CWP mandate is to fight the structural nature of unemployment across poor communities, with the main focus on the poor and vulnerable. Conversely, there are no prescribed limits or restrictions regarding participation duration. Additionally, the programme has several developmental benefits; the greatest noteworthy is that it translates into consistent and predictable incomes. This fosters and promotes a continuous wage floor for beneficiaries compared to temporary income rather than the short-term income spike features of temporary full employment. This programme allows the beneficiaries to actively engage and contribute to promoting and developing public assets and services in disadvantaged communities. On the other hand, it fosters a positive quality of life for households and individuals in vulnerable economic areas by providing work

experiences, improving or providing dignity and encouraging social and financial inclusion (Malose, 2021).

The CWP, through its different sectors, has shown how it can fight unemployment and poverty in rural areas, especially eMaxesibeni Alfred Nzo district, as it has offered the beneficiaries sustainable employment and stipend. The communities have a role of identifying their practical work and prioritising activities (Philip, 2013). As a national poverty alleviation and employment intervention, it provides an advanced solution to tackling the social issues and results that are caused by extreme unemployment through a comprehensive labour-based method which places emphasis on multi-sectoral activities apart from the infrastructure but which, however, still emphasises a community-based, labour-intensive, community participatory strategy.

The CWP policy mandates that the recruitment of the CWP beneficiaries and site staff for management and administrative work must be fair and transparent. The recruitment must be transparent to community members, and there must be no favouritism during the process. Moreover, for regular beneficiaries, the CWP often employ the beneficiaries who have the required essential skills and are interested in the project so that they can improve their skills. However, the recruitment must remain fair and transparent to everyone (CSVN CWP policy brief 1). The CWP sites are only located in the poorest communities and villages, especially where most people are unemployed and poverty is very high. Alfred Nzo District eMaxesibeni was one of the piloted areas due to its poorest nature. For each site, the beneficiaries, including site supervisors, must be provided with the following:

- Work uniform: This includes protective clothing and tools for the beneficiaries who are working on hazardous sites and using sharp and risky equipment such as spades ;
- With tools and materials, every site must have all the necessary work equipment and never use personal equipment;
- Training, technical supervision, and support: These will monitor the project's progress, ensure that everyone comes to work, and ensure that work is done;
- Supervision by site staff to ensure the work is done efficiently and consistently.

If these are not provided, the CWP projects will not be practical and will not yield the desired or intended results. For example, suppose the CWP agriculture sites, in terms of the homestead and communal gardens, require tools and equipment such as safety boots, spades, fork spades, watering cans, and other necessary tools. Without these, it is challenging for the beneficiaries to work as they must use their own clothing and tools (CSVN CWP policy brief 1). The CWP has approved many sites since 2008.

The CWP was approved to employ at least 1000 individuals per site, and these people must only work for two days per week or eight days a month, with a maximum of 100 days per year. During 2014/15, CWP comprised 185 sites in 159 municipalities. Additionally, by the end of March 2016, the CWP had 228 sites, with about 210,000 beneficiaries recruited (Philip, 2013). Previously, their pay dates were never standard, as the dates kept on changing. A current transformation in the CWP is that the state contributes to the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) for each CWP beneficiary. It is necessary to understand that the beneficiaries are not lawfully or officially regarded as government employees or the CBO appointed as the implementing agent at the local level. The CWP is not considered formal employment, and beneficiaries do not have an employment contract with the government or implementing agency (Shumba, 2017).

As highlighted in Chapter One, there are numerous sectors involved in CWP. However, this study focuses on the agriculture sector regarding homesteads and community food and vegetable gardens. As found by Stanwix and Van Der Westhuizen (2012); Malose (2017), some of the distinctive labour activities across the CWP's different sites are homestead and community food gardens, cleaning of public spaces, cutting of grasses or weeds, fencing and road maintenance, home and community-based care, caring for orphans and vulnerable children, fostering community safety, helping with social grants applications, environmental restoration and preservation and early childhood development.

3.8.1 Success and impact of CWP and its food garden projects

One of the fundamental issues that the government has been trying to fight is the high levels of poverty and unemployment in former disadvantaged Homelands. CoGTA is one of the government entities tasked with CWP in local municipalities. Progress achieved by CoGTA was that in 2014/15, about 185 CWP sites were approved across over 159 towns. From the 159 municipalities, over 2000 rural communities have benefited from this, including the wards at eMaxesibeni. 202 447 individuals benefited from the programme in 2014/25, where 75% were women and 45% were youth (Cooperative Governance Traditional Affairs Annual Report, 2014/15).

The programme has been a great success in agriculture as it has more than 45,000 homestead food gardens and 5000 community clinics, crèches or school-based gardens throughout the country's rural areas. By the end of the 2015 financial year, the programme had also created 202,634 job opportunities across impoverished rural communities. This shows that the government is dedicated to growing and expanding the CWP across all country municipalities and creating over one million work opportunities for poor people (Cooperative Governance Traditional Affairs Annual Report, 2014/15). During the financial year 2018/19, one of the CWP's significant achievements was employing more than 280,000 CWP beneficiaries and over 67,000 beneficiaries received training in several diverse specialities. It is safe to state that CWP has played an impressive role in fostering social balance and equality by focusing on the most vulnerable groups in communities (Department of Cooperative Governance 2018/19 ANNUAL Report).

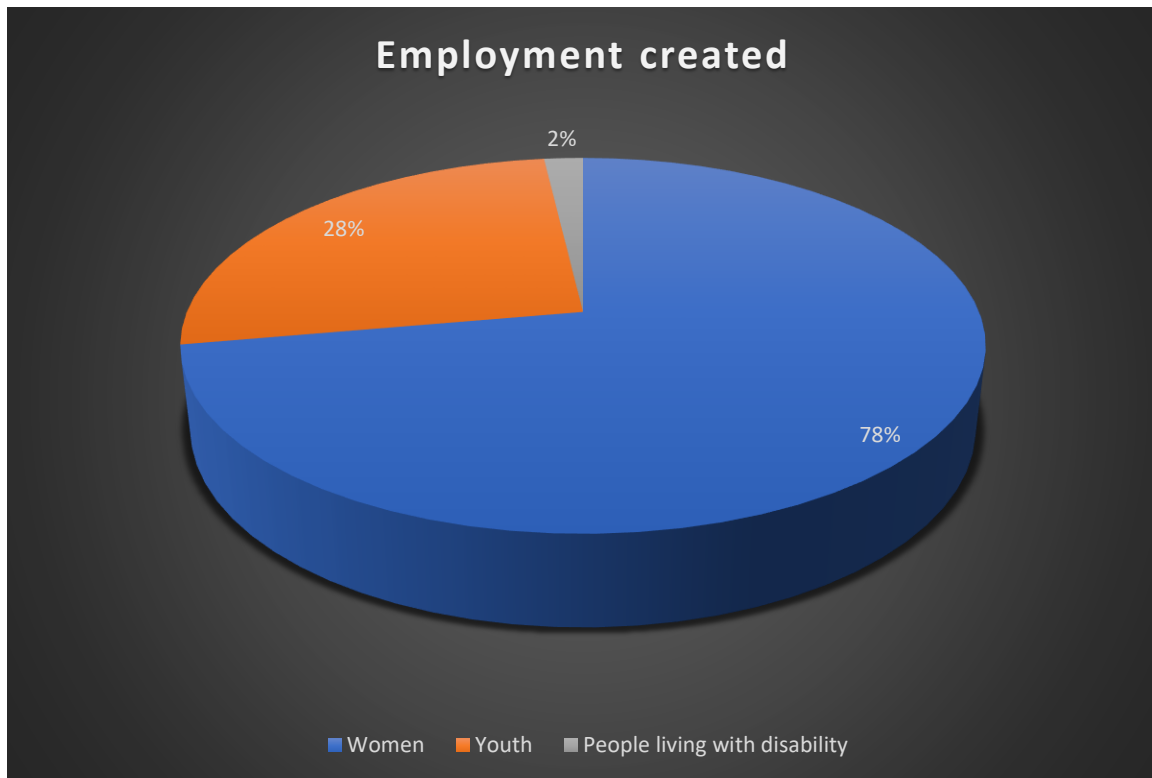


Figure 3.8.1 (a): CWP progress in terms of employment during 2018/1029 (Abongile Pindo, 2022)

Figure 3.8.1 depicts the distribution of employment created through the CWP nationally. 78% of participants were female, 28% were youth, and almost 2% were people living with disabilities (Department of Cooperative Governance 2018/19 ANNUAL Report).

In Mbizana, under the Alfred Nzo District, the CWP has created 1000 employment opportunities across 10 community wards, and about 100 beneficiaries are employed from each ward (Ngeva, 2019). The programme was piloted in Alfred Nzo district in 2008 and achieved successful results. For example, it had 261 gardens across ten villages (Mfanafuthi, 2008). This meant that, despite land issues and vacant land, as noted by Bank and Minkely (2005), the district was doing enough to ensure the land was being used effectively. This implies that the CWP created employment for thousands of people as they ensured the success of the food gardens at schools, communities, homesteads and clinics. It has a vital role as the produce of these gardens is often given to families that are HIV-affected, elderly, and orphans, as well

as to child-headed families in rural areas. This significantly contributes to rural food security, including providing nutritious food for feeding schemes and vulnerable groups of people (Department of Cooperative Governance (DCoG), 2011).

Most beneficiaries have developed a passion for agriculture, enabling them to start their gardens. Some wish to pursue agriculture studies as a formal qualification when exiting the programme. Even though there is limited training for the beneficiaries, the provided training and workshops empower them to do practical, helpful work and develop the community. The training to be offered depends on the budget availability for each site. The following are critical contributions of the CWP projects towards rural livelihood.



Figure 3.8.1 (b) CWP's role in economic and social inclusion in rural areas (CSVR CWP policy brief 1)

As Kobedi et al.(2022) found, the CWP has significantly empowered the beneficiaries, site supervisors, poor communities and vulnerable groups. Even though the CWP work is not full-time, beneficiaries have gained gardening skills and livelihood, and community leaders identify the poor and vulnerable to benefit from the CWP gardens. It is common for the CWP agriculture sector beneficiaries to start small gardening

businesses; however, their businesses often fail due to poor technical and generic skills and training to sustain and manage them. For example, the CWP offers limited training for its beneficiaries and not all of the participants get the opportunity to attend. Some of the training provided does not cater for those who want to gain entrepreneurial skills appropriate for them to start their own successful small business. To the contrary, a study by Kuta (2022) shares that this programme has valid sustainable exit (when the beneficiaries want to leave the programme) plans as the beneficiaries are empowered with agriculture skills and relevant work experience. This means that they become employable and compete in the labour market. Andersson and Alexander (2016) agree and allude to the fact that they can apply for jobs in different government departments with the skills the beneficiaries learn or gain in agriculture practices.

The homestead and communal gardens maintained by the CWP beneficiaries play a critical role in ensuring that vulnerable people from poor communities meet their nutritious dietary requirements, for example, the older persons, vulnerable children, child-headed households and the frail (Masondo, 2018). It is well known that the South African rural areas, especially the eMaxesibeni in Alfred Nzo District in the Eastern Cape, have limited fertile land. However, the CWP beneficiaries push and maintain those gardens despite the land challenge. The CWP use the available land to ensure the gardens are available and communal land is also used effectively. I argue that CWP has significantly improved the lives of the beneficiaries and the vulnerable, even though many individuals and households experiencing hunger and joblessness do not benefit directly from the homestead and communal gardens; instead, they benefit indirectly as a community.

As highlighted previously, I focus on the CWP garden's contribution to reducing rural poverty and improving social change. These gardens are divided into two parts: the homestead and communal gardens. In this study, the homestead gardens are those small gardens located in home backyards and inside the people's yards, and they belong to the beneficiaries of CWP, be it the CWP employees or the vulnerable group's homestead gardens. The communal gardens are located in public spaces such as

schools, nursing homes, ECDs, clinics and local municipal amenities (Msondo, 2018). The CWP beneficiaries maintain these gardens well and often cultivate vegetables such as cabbage, beetroot, spinach, tomatoes, onions, carrots and beans. One of the critical roles played by the beneficiaries and site supervisors is to ensure that the soil is well-prepared and ready for cultivation and that the weeds are removed regularly. Watering is often from the community taps, dams, streams and taps inside the yards of the gardens, but during the dry season in dry areas such as eMaxesibeni, the gardens suffer. As Msondo (2018) found, once the garden is ready to be harvested, the produce belongs to the household where the garden is located.

The CWP gardens located in the primary schools support the government school-feeding schemes, while the vegetables harvested from CWP gardens in high schools, clinics and other community spaces are solely for the vulnerable households in the community. It can be concluded from the above that the organic and fresh vegetables from the CWP gardens play a vital role in rural and poor communities in ensuring that the vulnerable groups and school-going children have access to nutritious and balanced meals, as the level of hunger in some communities is so extreme that the children begin to be undernourished (Masondo, 2018). I argue that the CWP communal and homestead gardens are confronted with many challenges that have led to their ineffectiveness in bringing social change and rural development to the Eastern Cape province and its rural areas, such as the Alfred Nzo District.

In a study by Qengqa and Ndaguba (2018), their participants shared that they believed that the CWP significantly contributes to social change and improves people's lives. There is a need for the government to do more for this programme so that many people can benefit and have their livelihoods improved for the better. . The findings by Qengqa and Ndaguba (2018) revealed that the CWP agriculture sector achieved its goal of satisfying community vegetable needs, and it is visible that the living conditions of the beneficiaries and the vulnerable group have improved for the better; this implies that the promised social change is somehow being offered. This was confirmed when the community could purchase the CWP vegetables, especially during family or social events. It is believed that a significant number of employees were created for those

qualifying to be part of this programme. However, some people still think there is no meaningful employment created by the programme, as many qualifying people are still unemployed.

Kuta (2022), in his findings on a study conducted in Ivory Park, found several challenges in terms of the CWP agriculture sector, as he found that the projects need more resources in terms of work equipment and clothing. This has challenged the beneficiaries's progress and motivation to work. Given that the beneficiaries have no uniform during winter, they feel cold as they do not have warm clothing. In summer, they also experience scorching hot weather and heavy rainfall. Drought and heavy rain impede the prosperity and productivity of the homestead and communal gardens. Additionally, the participants often buy the seeds to be planted. There is also corruption during recruitment due to a lack of transparency. Budget underutilisation is also a factor.

3.9 CHALLENGES OF PUBLIC WORK PROGRAMMES TO SUCCESSFULLY REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

PWPs often face many challenges that lead to failing to achieve their objectives. From research by Devereux (2016), one of the issues is around the salaries of beneficiaries, where the beneficiaries are getting paid meagre stipends and unable to meet all of their basic needs, and this has been criticised as it is considered unethical (opposing 'decent work' values) and counter-productive (since energy is expended doing manual labour, for example, the work done is more than the stipend that they are getting). Most of the PWP's time range is unsatisfactory, as they compete for labour when agriculturalists face peak on-farm labour needs. Similarly, since the resources formed by public works are employment-intensive and use limited financial resources, they are frequently mediocre in quality. Without satisfactory maintenance budgets, they can depreciate quickly after the project ends.

Most PEPs need better planning for sustainability, adequate support, and livelihoods fostering, as the targeted disadvantaged groups and households depend on the

employment opportunities offered by these programmes. Better collaboration between the private and public sectors is also needed to foster sustainability and skills development. For example, if the ultimate goal of beneficiaries is to be employed in the private sector, partnership or collaboration with such industries should be fostered from the start (Langa et al., 2019).

Not all qualifying people are recruited in PWP and PEPs. A study by Hlatshwayo (2017) found that some beneficiaries were hired because they are members of the ruling political party, the ANC, and given that ward committees are also part of community representatives and recruitment teams for such programmes, they end up employing their party favourites in EPWP projects. However, most EPWP beneficiaries do not ascribe to political activism and membership in the ANC. The temporary nature of PEP's employment is also an issue. For example, the beneficiaries are always anxious that their job may end soon, as often, once the project is completed, they are released. Additionally, studies such as Dladla and Mutambara (2018), Dladla (2020) and Stuart (2022) observe that the short-term nature of the PEPs employment leads to beneficiaries not being able to obtain credit, and this is because of low stipends and no job insecurity. They also need to be provided with payslips. Due to a lack of access to formal credit, for example, the EPWP and CWP beneficiaries turn to loan sharks, which are illegal and charge exorbitant interest, and this leads to more financial challenges as they fail to pay all the money back with interest. Multiple challenges negatively impact the success of the PWP. The challenges of these programmes hinder social change and community work.

Monitoring and evaluating the programmes are imperative to realising their objectives. The government must encourage effective monitoring and evaluation frameworks for the EPWP and CWP (Johannes, 2016). Monitoring and evaluation also trace the programme's progress against its objectives and inform implementing agencies and stakeholders of the challenges the beneficiaries face and possible suggestions to deal with those issues arising. Therefore, monitoring and evaluation is an imperative strategy that must be employed in all PWPs, projects and training programmes to promote the quality and quantity of productivity (Matsiliza, 2018). There needs to be

monitoring in some projects, especially in rural areas. Additionally, there are issues with the personnel implementing these PWP's, who need the specialised leadership skills and qualifications. Arguably, unqualified development practitioners may cause the failure of social change and rural development programmes, as they may fail to understand the development models.

A study by Mkhwanazi (2019) reveals that one of the critical matters hindering PWP's success is people needing the required project management qualifications when implementing projects. He further notes that the implementers need more advanced training; for example, there are situations where the Project Manager and contractors need to receive proper training to assist them in their job roles. Additionally, limited resources are the major contributor to programmes failing, often leading to poor auditing and reporting. Another point that Samson (2015) highlights is that the beneficiaries frequently receive low stipends, and previously, they needed to be paid on time. Late stipend payments are the norm for programmes such as CWP and EPWP. This is mainly caused by poor prioritisation of stipend payments by seniors, which greatly upset the project beneficiaries. In agreement with these findings, Chiloane (2020) and I, during interviews, found that the CWP beneficiaries have no payslips and employment insurance. This means that if there are no payslips, there is also no proof of employment other than the contract they signed, and this has challenged the beneficiaries in many ways. The CWP beneficiaries cannot apply for a loan from the bank as proof of employment and payslips are required when applying for a loan.

One of the main reasons for the beneficiaries not having payslips is that their work is often temporary, and they need benefits or employment insurance. It is well-known that the payslip comprises information linking hours worked and compensation. Each employee must know their salary or compensation for hours worked, especially the CWP beneficiaries, as they are compensated for their hours. Therefore, receiving no payslip implies that the workers could be underpaid. Moreover, most beneficiaries work with dangerous tools and equipment, yet they lack appropriate protective clothing, which violates labour law. It also contradicts health and safety laws and

protocols, stipulating that employees working with dangerous equipment or in unsafe environments must be provided with the appropriate protective clothing. Qengqa and Ndaguba's (2018) study findings reveal that one major challenge hindering the CWP's progress and impact is the theft of the garden produce. This implies that there needs to be more security to protect the gardens and ensure that the produce is not stolen. This is the biggest challenge across the sites and communities, and it also demotivates the CWP beneficiaries as their hard work often goes down the drain. Theft is a negative factor or problem that significantly impedes the income generated from the CWP projects.

3.10 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS

As stated by Asker, Carrard and Winterford (2014) in their study, without community development, there would not be livelihoods in rural areas, as community development projects foster positive social change and value. Phillips and Pittman (2014) agree that community development brings hope to local communities by empowering people with skills to take ownership of their livelihood. However, even though community development seems to be the answer, poor implementation, such as not involving the people in projects for a shared view, is disastrous (Buye, 2021). Community development fails because of corruption, poor public participation, and poor skills and monitoring of the implemented development programmes. For example, Shava and Thakhath (2016) concur that a lack of skills and cadre deployment hinder the success of community projects. The development practitioners and even the local councillors involved in the projects lack the skills (leadership and management skills) to succeed.

It is paramount that the development leaders of the community development projects be chosen because of their skills, knowledge, and experience rather than political affiliation and loyalty when it comes to an effective developmental local government. Luke (2011) also agrees regarding skilled development practitioners, as he assures the significance of understanding projects and skills for successful projects; the author signifies that some development practitioners do not understand community

development and its principles. This often leads to recruiting people without training or skills to execute projects, compromising the development programme's quality. For example, Shava and Thakhathi's (2016) study concurs with the importance of skills development, as they allude to the fact that economically fit people in rural communities must receive training for project effectiveness and sustainability, including the implementer too and training such as vocational training is limited or not offered at all.

Further, community members must be empowered and capacitated for successful development projects. For example, a study by Setokoe and Ramukumba (2020) revealed that the beneficiaries of the projects must be trained through skills development to be active participants in the development projects implemented, which aim to achieve their sustainable livelihoods. The training to be provided must speak to the projects and future aspirations, and in this way, the beneficiaries will develop a sense of ownership and enthusiasm for the projects.

Community development also fails because it lacks monitoring once a project is implemented. As stated by Shava and Thakhathi (2016), poor monitoring is caused by a lack of commitment by government officials, a lack of human resources and other resources such as government vehicles and infrastructure, such as roads leading to the project sites. In the Eastern Cape, community development programmes, as stated by Shava and Thakhathi (2016), fail because of poor public participation and knowledge about different projects. People are poorly informed and not fully aware of the projects that aim to transform them. Additionally, the cadre deployment of ANC party loyalists derails the efficacy of programmes and community development, leading to a loss of morale in development and the government. Observing the failure of rural development and the slow pace of social change in rural areas, it is pivotal that the government focuses on extensive skills development, fostering community participation for a sense of ownership, and improving the sustainability of projects.

NGOs and CBOs are crucial stakeholders in community development and project implementation. These stakeholders work with local government departments during the implementation of the projects (Usadolo & Caldwell, 2016). As agreed by

Nzimakwe (2008), NGOs and CBOs have become a significant part of the implementation of development programmes. The CBOs are involved in planning, implementing and monitoring government programmes; they significantly bring social change in rural communities. Regarding social change, NGOs and CBOs contribute to improving rural livelihood and the people's health, nutrition and literacy. Additionally, the projects and programmes that can facilitate and promote changes in rural communities include financial support for small businesses, microfinance of health and education, sustainable agriculture, and safe water and sanitation (Hussain, Khattak, & Khan, 2008). NGOs are the heart of the communities. However, the current state of development, as alluded to by Obadire, Mudau, Sarfo-Mensah and Zuwarimwe (2013), shows that the NGO development programmes' implementation, such as CRDP, have not been as effective as expected as there are also some funding issues and maladministration. In eMaxesibe in Alfred Nzo, few NGOs and CBOs exist for community development. Now that NPOs or NGOs no longer implement the CWP, their reputation will also be negatively affected. The eMaxesibeni area alone makes it harder to find an NGO or CBO.

For example, my experience as a social worker was when I recently graduated in 2020. I was looking for an NGO or CBO where I could volunteer, but I did not find anything similar to the NGOs. Even one of my friends decided to go to Kwazulu-Natal in Kokstad to access NGOs for her social work in-service training because she could not find any. One may ask: Is this caused by a lack of financial support for NGOs and CBOs from the government, or are the people in eMaxesibeni unaware of their significance and how to start an NGO? As stated by Makofane and Selepe (2022), NGOs lack grants and funding support from the government; this leads to challenges for them in providing efficient services to poor communities.

As stated by Mokoto, Juta, Zweni and Tshidzumba (2023), different stakeholders are involved in community participation in community development. Ward councillors act as representatives of the community members to the local government and advocate for their communities. The public elects the ward committee as a community structure representative, and its mandate is to ensure that the municipality meets the needs of

the people. This implies that the community can voice their issues through ward committees within their jurisdiction (Zulu, 2020). Additionally, the ward committee functions as a mechanism for all municipal issues that may affect a community's public. Officials' quarterly reports with minutes are written to report back to the community. The ward councillor and chairperson must frequently provide feedback within 21 days, as stressed by the Department of Provincial and Local Government (DPLG, 2005). Ward councillors play a critical role in community development projects and rural development. People choose to have ward councillors represent the community in the local government and make decisions on the community's behalf (Mzelemu, 2019). The ward councillors play a critical role in organising community participation forums and meetings at the ward level; they also verify whether the socioeconomic challenges they identified to the ward committees are accurate and satisfactory (Molale, 2019). The ward committees work with ward councillors; in local governance, the ward committee links the communities and ward councillors.

The ward committee is close to the local people and is the first to know about community issues and challenges. The ward councillors ensure that the local government hears the public's needs and that service delivery in terms of projects is effective and efficient. Ward councillors are actively involved in ensuring the public participation of different community stakeholders in community development projects for effective social change and rural development (Mzelemu, 2019).

As summarised by the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) (2006), the following are the essential functions and duties of ward councillors:

- Frequently informing community members under their jurisdiction about the possible development projects and progress on programmes implemented;
- Ensure practical evaluation of the municipal development projects regarding their potential impact on the people and development;
- Actively involved in ensuring that the services to people are offered fairly and sustainably;
- Ensuring that the projects implemented are in agreement with the IDP Plan;

- Keeping close contact with their communities to ensure that the council is knowledgeable of all matters on the ground;
- Transmission of information from the council to the people.

It is evident that the service delivery, including development projects and programmes, is decided by a council, and the ward councillors are guided by policy and the Municipal Act. However, due to the failure of many development Municipal projects and development programmes, it can be argued that the council diverted from its primary function and became self-serving. Due to that, the public is losing its trust in ward councillors (Thornhill & Dlamini, 2012). This leads to poor public participation in local government as the public starts to see the flawed implementation of their development projects and as these community development projects end up not benefiting the intended people. Apart from this, the majority of the councillors have no leadership skills and no experience in community development or implementation of the projects as they only received the basic councillor induction training, which is often about their broad responsibilities and functions as councillors (Thornhill & Dlamini, 2012; Mzelemu, 2019).

Ward councillors and committees are actively involved in planning development projects and form part of the decision-makers. Moreover, they are tasked with monitoring the projects implemented in their jurisdictions without experience or expertise. As alluded to by Shava and Thakhathi (2016), most government programmes fail because they are not monitored, so challenges and progress are not well measured. As the researcher, I understand that monitoring a project plays a significant role in its effectiveness, as regular monitoring would result in early identification of project weaknesses, corruption, mismanagement of funds, and diverting from its original plans and goals. However, the thesis argues that the councillors are not community development orientated and fail to meet their promises to the rural people. They fail to represent their communities and even ensure the successful running of development projects. For example, there are increasing issues of them failing to monitor or plan projects properly. Many corruption allegations and

fraudulent acts by ward councillors and committees show that they are not transparent or committed to their jobs.

3.10.1 Corruption and fraud as hindrances to development

Corruption across the world is a challenge. It deteriorates development and undermines the efforts of many people to sustain their livelihoods. Surprisingly, the people who participate in criminal activities are the ones who should be assisting in development. This challenge is not only an African issue. For example, a study conducted by Avis, Ferraz and Finan (2018) shared that Brazil is one of the most decentralised nations in the world, as the federal government gives Brazilian municipalities money every year. This money is for basic essential services, including primary education, healthcare, water and sanitation. The person who decides how the millions of dollars should be used is the mayor working with the local, elected legislative body. Not all the services are provided, and corruption, fraud and maladministration at the municipal level are serious problems. For example, corrupt practices occur during the procurement of goods and services, where funds are diverted, and there is much unexplainable invoicing of goods and services (Ferraz & Finan, 2008). This leads to unfinished public works (paid for but not entirely completed) and the utilisation of forged receipts and phantom businesses; there is much fraud regarding papers and contracts signed to provide goods and services.

In African countries such as Kenya, corruption is also a factor that hinders development. As Hope, Sr. (2014) found in his Kenyan study, the money budgeted to develop rural communities and implement various development projects is used unfairly and not for the needs of the public. Additionally, some local government officials in Kenya use it for their enrichment. This includes politicians, development practitioners, corrupt private agencies and individuals. Like any other country, corruption occurs because the officials and agencies lack transparency and accountability. Also, in Nigeria, development is delayed because of persistent corruption. Adebayo (2014) has noted that corruption is a big challenge to Nigeria's efficiency of rural development. This is because the local government people have no integrity or values and lack transparency, challenging the rural people for whom these

development programmes are intended. The intended beneficiaries of the projects do not benefit as policies intended them to, but the people who do not qualify do.

As Transparency International (2014) contends, in developing countries, corruption harms their development, especially in African countries, as they are still addressing the European colonialism that left them devastated. Across the globe, corruption threatens economic growth, including public and private functioning; it also has a detrimental and hostile impact on people, particularly people with low incomes and the majority of Black people in South Africa (Mlambo, Mphurpi & Makgoba, 2023), due to many development programmes failing because of corruption from the government officials. Several legislations have been implemented in South Africa to ensure effective and efficient service delivery and limit corruption. However, the effectiveness of this legislation heavily relies on the government officials who are meant to introduce and execute it.

The introduced legislation in the Local Government include:

- **Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA) No 56 of 2003:** The MFMA aims to control and safeguard the sustainable management of financial matters across local government institutions. All in all, it oversees the procurement processes. However, the Act has been manipulated to allow corruption and fraudulence to take place. For example, to concur with this, the Auditor-General's (2022) report found several cases of non-compliance with supply chain management protocols, insufficient procurement and fraudulent payment processes, uncompetitive, biased procurement processes, and forged contract management.
- **Protected Disclosure Act (26 of 2000):** The Act mandates that every government employee and management report any unlawful act by another employee in a workplace, both in the public and private sectors. It also protects whistle-blowers when reporting corruption. Due to intimidation by management or senior personnel, whistle-blowers find it hard to report such cases. This is mainly caused by intimidation and distress, often discouraging them from coming forward and reporting corruption and fraudulent activities and practices

(Razzano, 2014). Due to intimidation and not trusting that they will be protected once they report such acts, they become easy targets for monetary incentives as a “shut up” package, or they can risk being killed or their family being threatened. We have seen many cases where government officials have been attacked and killed.

- **The Special Investigative Unit (SIU):** The SIU is responsible for investigating high-profile issues of corruption and fraud across government departments or sectors. Given such a big responsibility, it is challenging to make a head-or-tail of South Africa losing money yearly because of corrupt government procurement activities (Mlambo et al., 2023). However, Mathekga (2017) states that about 47% of the South African people paid bribes upon communicating with the government; this signifies that corruption is seen as a normal act and unavoidably a way of living by many as the departments tasked to deal with crime and corruption are corrupt themselves and not performing upon the people’s expectations. Local government institutions continue to see corruption and financial transgressions in the face of a unit of the SIU substituted with the Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) to address issues of internal maladministration. This would be regarded as a great initiative; however, only about 23,000 corruption cases were reported in 2001, and only 638 were punished. However, this unit was shut down due to a lack of transparency, fraudulent behaviour and poor accountability.

As Mlambo et al. (2023) note, South Africa introduced numerous legislations to guide service delivery by local government after the 1994 democratic elections, but despite several efforts, local government leaders are mostly corrupt and find ways to manipulate the legislation for self-financing. These acts are associated with the distortion of local development. The continuous growth of cases of public protests shows the failure of municipal service delivery as an impending disaster for South Africans. The White Paper on Local Government (1998) mandates that local government officials must be responsible, truthful and driven leaders who foster local development by creating rural development opportunities, and the Municipal officials

must account for the community they serve. Chapter 7, Section 153 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996 states that local government must prioritise the community's essential services and encourage its social and economic development (Razzano, 2014).

According to a Corruption Watch (CW) report (2021), in 2020 alone, the cases of corruption allegation practices by local government alone was 857. There was also a 50% increase in the Eastern Cape province, followed by Free State, KwaZulu-Natal, and the Western Cape, compared to 2019. CW further reports that the municipalities badly caught up in corruption include the central metropolitan municipalities such as the City of Johannesburg, which had about 700 reports, Ekurhuleni with 354; the City of Tshwane has 325; eThekweni with 166, and the City of Cape Town at 125 reports. The common forms of corruption in local government include indiscretions in the procurement process, misuse of funds, and employment irregularities; all these criminal activities negatively affect effective service delivery implementation. In addition, there is evidence of nepotism, bribery, and neglect of procedures and regulations, with implicated bureaucrats hardly being made accountable.

Moreover, according to the African News Agency (2020), nine officials, together with former municipal bureaucrats and an advisor to the Eastern Cape premier, had to appear in the Port Elizabeth magistrate's court due to issues that include fraud, bribery and money laundering accounting for more than R56.4 million. The group allegedly caught included six business owners. Additionally, two former Nelson Mandela Metropolitan municipal officials and two powerful community office bearers were held. The powerful office bearers are said to be working with municipal employees and are involved in appointing the individuals to the most important positions within the municipality. The appointment of these people would play a critical role in corruption as they would influence the procurement processes and appointments of businesses that may accept anything to feed the group's interests. The purpose was apparently to certify that illegitimate payments were made from the municipality to syndicate associates (African News Agency, 2020).

3.11 IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

Africa's agriculture is in dire condition because of climate change. For example, the cumulative prevalent and extreme droughts and floods, followed by increasing temperatures and decreasing rainfall, are serious current problems in southern Africa. The agricultural sector is the most affected by these climatic conditions as about 95% of agricultural products are solely dependent on a rain-fed climate (Nhamo, Matchaya, Mabhaudhi, Nhlengethwa, Nhemachena & Mpandeli, 2019). This becomes a challenge when a country is poorly equipped regarding climate change adaptability resources (Nhamo, Mabhaudhi & Modi, 2019). Most African rural areas mainly survive through subsistence farming, and for their agriculture practices to flourish, they depend on favourable weather patterns. Sadly, rural communities, including Alfred Nzo District, are predominantly exposed to the diverse effects of climate conditions on their subsistence farming, livestock, and water supplies, which endanger them to challenges with the potential to experience increased levels of food insecurity, water shortages, and poor health due to extreme climate change stressors (File & Derbile, 2020).

In South Africa, life-threatening temperatures and rainfall, hail, and snowfall are projected to impact crop yields. Droughts in South African communities are negatively triggering crop disasters, especially in rural areas with no or poor irrigation to supplement crop water shortages during drought. I also found that weeds, pests, and bugs are prevalent during extreme weather conditions, impacting crops and livestock (Nhamo et al., 2019 (b)). Afful and Ayisi (2020) state that it is well known that the majority of South Africa's agricultural activities and yields heavily rely on climate consistency, such as average temperatures and rainfall. South Africa is a semi-arid country known for its scarce groundwater resources; such features are aggravated by climate change, which impacts the agricultural sector. Due to the high dependency of rural areas on climate-sensitive courses, the people's livelihoods are threatened. For example, communities across the country experience higher temperatures, lack of rainfall, and prolonged drought (Rankoana, 2023). In rural areas, the following

agriculture practices, such as subsistence agriculture and livestock farming, are the practical scenarios of the climate-dependent income resources exposed to weather conditions and variation. These cause food shortages and water insufficiency in many rural areas (Shisanya & Mafongoya, 2017). There are increasing flooding and drought scenarios that hamper agriculture across the country.

According to News24, reported by Sguazzin (2022), most South African communities and provinces that practised agriculture in January 2022 experienced prolonged and heavy rainfall, resulting in flooding. The floods led to many crops being washed away and livestock drowning and dying. Most of the country's districts, including six of nine provinces, were exposed to the heaviest rainfall since tracking by district began in 1921. That comprises the critical belt for cultivating maize, as it is known that South Africa is the leading exporter across the African continent. Due to this, the South African government was forced to declare a national disaster, a legal strategy that would assist in unlocking financial and humanitarian support, citing death, flooding, and infrastructure damages.

My main argument regarding climate change is that it is a threat and a challenge to development programmes and agriculture production, as flooding washes away the crops and vegetables cultivated; this is also the case for the agriculture sector in terms of CWP, which means that prolonged flooding may cause more poverty in our rural areas. The diverse weather conditions, such as heavy rains, cyclones, and drought, have detrimental effects on our CWP efficiency, as the beneficiaries of the CWP have no shelter. During rainy days, they do not work, and during drought or dry seasons, they experience water challenges as the dams and streams are empty, and even community taps are without water. Some villages do not even have community water tanks and taps. This implies that the rural livelihood of people dependent on agriculture production for food consumption and water provision suffers during drought season (Rankoana, 2023). Household food shortages and water scarcity harm people's livelihoods and health.

In the Eastern Cape province, specifically in the Mpondoland region, the people do not only plant vegetables and crops. Mpondoland is known for being rich in terms of

cannabis. People from Mpondoland, through cannabis, were able to feed their families and send children to school (Nowicki, 2024). However, I found that this prosperity was short-lived, as the Constitutional Court judgment in 2018 decriminalised the planting of cannabis for private use, and this judgment has negatively impacted the Mpondo small-scale farmers. People were no longer making much profit from cannabis. Additionally, drought also negatively affected cannabis productivity and the drop in the price, which made it difficult to make a profit. Due to water shortages and the dry season, most plants and crops have died. The prolonged dryness led to people in Mpondoland abandoning agriculture and depending on social grants.

3.12 CONCLUSION

The main argument of this chapter is that poverty and hunger programmes in South Africa are failing because of land availability issues. Land is one of the most valuable resources or assets regarding rural poverty and livelihoods. Land is required to achieve SDGs one and two. This chapter has provided a comprehensive insight into global policies for poverty issues and different challenges in an African context that inhibit rural development and achievement of rural poverty security and livelihood. Different rural development programmes and policies have been introduced to reduce poverty. There are limited success stories of the policies and programmes that bring about the promised social change. The macro South African policies and the rural development programmes discussed in this chapter have failed the former Homelands, including the small villages at eMaxesibeni. Instead of addressing the reason for the failure of these policies and programmes, a new programme and policy with similar goals and objectives is introduced. For example, if the policymakers and implementers see that there are many challenges faced by CWP beneficiaries in terms of monitoring and evaluation and provision of training and workshops for the beneficiaries, instead of addressing this issue, the policymakers will introduce another similar programme. If policymakers and the government keep replacing programmes

instead of resolving their issues, the former Homelands at eMaxesibeni will never realise rural development.

Corruption, climate change, and rural-urban migration have led to less economically active people in rural areas, have negatively challenged rural agriculture practices, and have led to high poverty and less economically active people in rural areas. This chapter asked a critical question: Are these policies and numerous community work programmes achieving what the government promised during the first democratic elections? Is social change and rural development a dream that the policies fail to accomplish? One observation about our government is that it will come with well-written policies that will raise communities only to implement them poorly. Once they fail, they are replaced. From the numerous policies and programmes, it is crystal clear that there is a challenge when it comes to implementing development policies, and if the government does not see that, rural development and social change will never be realised. There are so many policies targeting livelihoods and poverty alleviation, but every day on the news, there are protests against poverty and unemployment. Are the policies and programmes poorly planned and budgeted, or are underlying issues hindering their successes?

CHAPTER FOUR

METHODOLOGY, DESIGN OF THE STUDY AND EXPERIENCES OF FIELDWORK

4.1 INTRODUCTION

To tell the rural development story of the Eastern Cape, eMaxesibeni and Alfred Nzo, I followed qualitative methodology. Spending sufficient time conducting interviews, conducting field observations, and reviewing archives was essential. The challenges and successes of rural development necessitated me to tell the story through case study design and the interpretivism paradigm. These strategies and methods enabled me to present this rural development and CWP comprehensively, as I did not depend on a single instrument for data collection. This chapter details the different methods and their appropriateness in studying rural development issues and successes. The following are the objectives that the study sought to address;

- To identify and understand the projects aimed at social change through CWP;
- To explore the implementation of CWP projects and the agriculture sector in eMaxesibeni Alfred Nzo;
- To determine how the CWP agriculture sector addresses issues of poverty and unemployment in Alfred Nzo eMaxesibeni;
- To explore the recruitment processes and monitor and evaluate the CWP agriculture sector within Alfred Nzo.

4.2 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND PARADIGM

Research methodology refers to the methods followed in research to address the research objectives and research questions. Given the complex nature of the study's research problem, poverty issues experienced by the people, and in the light of

contributions intended by the CWP to the poor communities and its beneficiaries, I followed a qualitative methodology. This methodology is significant for the study as I collected data and uncovered the story of the contribution made by the CWP towards social change and rural development. I spoke directly to the CWP agriculture sector beneficiaries, the site supervisor, and the officials in the departments who are implementing and monitoring the CWP progress and targets. Not only did this methodology allow for real-time data, but observation of the CWP homesteads and communal gardens was conducted. This is where a comparison of sites or villages was also conducted to learn more about how CWP has impacted the rural lives of the eMaxesibeni communities and the different challenges the beneficiaries encounter.

The one-on-one semi-structured interviews shed light on how the beneficiaries view the programme. Each beneficiary and site supervisor was able to tell their story about how they perceived the programme and how their lives have changed since its implementation. The officials were also allowed to speak about the Alfred Nzo service delivery; the programme issues and drought at eMaxesibeni seemed to hinder the CWP site gardens. I had the opportunity to collect data directly from the participants. This agrees with Haradhan (2018), who believes that the qualitative methodology allows for rich experiences and views from the participants' points of view.

Moreover, adopting the interpretive paradigm was significant for the research as, through spending more time with the participants and conducting document analysis, I understood that unemployment is complex. According to Rehman and Alharth(2016), the interpretive paradigm believes in socially constructed meaning and that the meanings are not discovered but created. Interpretive paradigms believe in multiple realities. There is no single truth or reality regarding the impact the CWP agriculture sector garden sites have on vulnerable groups around eMaxesibeni, as I found contradicting and different realities and views. For example, the majority of the participants of the study who are CWP beneficiaries shared that the programme brought positive change and transformation of their lives, and they can even afford basic needs, while others said no change had been brought about; instead, poverty is becoming worse as the programme is under-resourced. This illustrates that when

conducting the fieldwork, I was not biased in terms of experiences and views, and I made sense of the CWP as the way the participants interviewed and the documents reviewed shared it.

Through the interpretive paradigm and conducting participant observations, I found that the PWPs would be successful in addressing the unemployment and rural poverty issues if they were transparent in terms of the recruitment process and the policies were not merely a Wishlist; instead, they had practical ways of monitoring and evaluating the programmes. One of the main objectives that enabled the use of the qualitative method and interpretivism paradigm was an in-depth exploration of the CWP agriculture sector in terms of eMaxesibe. Therefore, the experiences and views of the participants were explored in detail to obtain a complete view of the phenomenon (Katz, 2015). I was able to learn about different issues that lead to eMaxssibeni and Eastern Cape service delivery and social change issues, such as corruption and poor transparency of PWPs, including CWP recruitment processes. I was able to take into account the different factors that contribute to and affect rural development of eMaxesibeni from the participants' experiences and perceptions. Lastly, through the interpretivism paradigm, I treated the eMaxesibeni Alfred Nzo and the Eastern Cape development and rural livelihood issues as unique, taking into account the given situations and the study participants' perceptions of the sites (Alharahsheh & Pius, 2020).

However, I encountered some limitations through this method as it was time-consuming and fieldwork was expensive. For example, I needed to hire a car to visit the sites and rent a place to conduct interviews. The data collection process took about 12 months, starting with gaining access from gatekeepers, conducting the actual interviews and transcribing them, and then conducting document reviews and analyses. This was indeed a costly and lengthy process, but it was worthwhile.

4.3 RESEARCH DESIGN

Research design shapes the study and serves as a process that glues all research elements together. This research followed a case study design. To tell the story of Alfred Nzo eMaxesibeni about its rural development and CWP impact, I had to carefully observe and interview the people involved in the CWP agriculture sector and carefully study their experiences of the programme. This was done through different methods of data collection, which includes the extended field observation of the CWP agriculture site at eMaxesibeni, the individual semi-structured interviews, and the archives review in terms of the CWP policy, Alfred Nzo District IDPs, CoGTA CWP progress and implementation statuses. I obtained in-depth knowledge of rural development regarding CWP rather than only quantifying and controlling the sample (Haradhan, 2018). Unemployment and poverty issues of the Eastern Cape and Alfred Nzo eMaxesibeni were explained extensively, and a complete analysis of agricultural progress and issues was gathered and discussed. Thus, a case study is fundamentally a thorough exploration of the particular unit under consideration.

In this study, the story of eMaxesibeni Alfred Nzo was significant as minimal empirical research has explored rural development in this context. The study was able to understand that these issues of slow social change and rural development can be traced back to apartheid laws of segregation. Therefore, the case study design in qualitative study enables the study of the situations and experiences of the participants in a given phenomenon (Baxter & Jack, 2010). In case studies, participants are viewed as valuable sources of experience. This allows for several comprehensive perspectives on the studied problem (Cohen, Manion & Morrison, 2007). In-depth data were collected, and all the research questions were addressed.

4.4 SAMPLING STRATEGY

It was going to be difficult or impossible to study the whole population. Therefore, sampling was required to select a small number of participants from the larger

population (Bhardwaj, 2019). Through sampling, time and money were saved as only the participants who are part of the CWP agriculture sector at eMaxesibnei in Alfred Nzo, including site supervisors and government officials, form part of the people to be interviewed. Given that the research is qualitative, Non-probability sampling was followed. The CWP beneficiaries, site supervisors, and government officials could not be chosen as a study sample (Nyimbili & Nyimbili, 2024). This non-probability sampling produced comprehensive and detailed results as I directly communicated with and spent time with the voluntary sample and the sample that met the criteria.

I recruited about 60 participants; however, given that the study was voluntary, only 48 agreed to be part of the study sample. Five of the 48 participants were site supervisors across CWP villages and wards at eMaxesibeni, two were government officials in the implementing departments, and the remaining 41 were CWP agriculture sector beneficiaries. The participants were both males and females.

DIFFERENT PARTICIPANTS	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	SECTOR
Site or village supervisors	05	Agriculture sector
Beneficiaries	41	Agriculture sector
Government officials	02	Implementers and M&E
Total Number	48 participants	

Table 4..4: Overview of the sample for primary data

4.4.1 Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Inclusion and exclusion criteria were followed to ensure that appropriate and rich data address the research aim and questions. Inclusion criteria are characteristics and features the prospective research participant must have to be included in the study. In contrast, the exclusion criteria are defined as characteristics of the potential study participants who do not meet all the characteristics of the study criteria of inclusion and then are excluded from being part of the study (Patino & Ferreira, 2018). For both archives and primary data, inclusion and exclusion criteria were used.

4.4.1.1 Primary data Inclusion criteria

- Employed under CWP agriculture sector or be an implementing government official;
- Have six months or more as the beneficiary and site supervisor;
- Be knowledgeable of the purpose of the CWP agriculture sector ;
- Understanding the CWP homestead and communal gardens' purpose.

4.4.1.2 Exclusion criteria

- Having less than six months in the project;
- Not part of the CWP agriculture sector;
- Not familiar with CWP purpose and the homestead and communal gardens;
- Younger than 18 years and 60 years and above.

4.4.2 Data from archives (document analysis)

In terms of archives, reviewed and analysed documents were only CWP policy, CWP pilot plan and progress, Alfred Nzo IDP from 2011 to 2024, Eastern Cape socio-economic development reports from 2011, National CoGTA, DCoG CWP progress report, Eastern Cape CoGTA reports, and Alfred Nzo CoGTA reports from 2008 to 2023, and News articles about Alfred Nzo issues and development. The unemployment status and poverty issues of Alfred Nzo and Eastern Cape were also explored from the thesis, dissertations, newspaper articles, and journal articles retrieved from Google, Springer, SAGE, JSTOR, Semantic Scholar, Google Scholar, Academia, and Ebscohost. All these documents were retrieved from the public domain, and permission was granted to use them for research.

4.5 RECRUITMENT PROCESS AND STRATEGIES

Empirical research requires the recruitment of participants, and this is an important and quite challenging process. This is where I had to think and read up on appropriate

strategies to identify potential research participants. During this process, the participants had to be given detailed information about the study and motivate their interest to join the study sample (Manohar, MacMillan & Steiner, 2018). Before going to the CWP beneficiaries and site supervisors, it was necessary to obtain permission from two government departments in Alfred Nzo, the CoGTA and DRDAR. These two departments are part of the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of CWP locally (Alfred Nzo District Municipality) and provincially. My recruitment strategy was face-to-face and visiting sites (Negrin, Slaughter, Dahlke & Olson, 2022).

I requested a meeting with these departments individually and permission to access the CWP agriculture beneficiaries and site supervisors. The two departments requested a formal letter, and I wrote and signed it. They then requested that I present the study's aims, objectives, ethics, and significance to them. During the presentations, I emphasised the importance of keeping the confidentiality and anonymity of participants, meaning that even they, as management, will not be part of my site visits and interviews and must not provide me with who must and must not be interviewed for the study. After visiting and discussing this with the relevant departments, the department gave me verbal permission to recruit the participants, and later, I received permission-signed letters. The government officials were also recruited anonymously. After gaining permission, the CoGTA gave me a list of contact people for the CWP agriculture sector. I had an individual meeting with them, and they gave me directions to each agriculture sector CWP site/village. Then, I had to introduce myself, my purpose for the visit, the study aim, objectives, significance, and reason for them to participate.

I reviewed the study consent form, answered all questions, and rectified confusion. All this was done in isiXhosa. After that, I gave everyone, including site supervisors, a consent form. However, I told them that since their participation was confidential, their details would be anonymised for those interested. Since the study was voluntary, they signed the consent form at home and sent a text message or call should they require my assistance. I reimbursed those who called and texted me for their airtime. The recruitment process took about eight months. From CWP beneficiaries and site

supervisors, I received about 48 signed consent forms and two from government officials. Some did not return the forms, and no one was forced to participate. The permission letters and consent form are provided in the Appendices.

4.5.1 Overview of the CWP agriculture sites and beneficiaries

From talking to the department officials responsible for the CWP agriculture sector and reviewing the provided documents about the Alfred Nzo CWP, I found a brief overview of the CWP and the structure of the agriculture sector. Table 6.5.1 below provides the CWP agriculture sites and beneficiaries overview

WARD NUMBER	LOCATION	NUMBER OF CWP BENEFICIARIES/PARTICIPANTS
Ward 1	Brooksnek	15
Ward 2	Lubaleko	18
Ward 3	Msukeni	14
Ward 3	Tela	14
Ward 4	Betshwane	12
Ward 4	Mnqwane	14
Ward 4	Sigidini	14
Ward 5	Mapheleni	05
Ward 5	Sirhoqobeni	12
Ward 6	Gogela	13
Ward 7	Mount Ayliff (1)	12
Ward 7	Mount Ayliff (20)	16
Ward 8	Dutyini	19
Ward 8	Lusuthu	14
Ward 8	Sikhumbeni	9

Ward 8	Sugarbush	34
Ward 26	Cabazana	26

Table 4.5.1: Overview of the CWP agriculture sites and beneficiaries

For archives, I visited the Alfred Nzo district municipality to access their official website and use their reports: Integrated Development Plan (IDPs), statistics, and figures about unemployment, poverty, rural development, CWP and socioeconomic status and progress. I then visited the Umzimvubu local municipality and met CoGTA officials regarding the use of their CWP and socioeconomic status reports posted online. The information about the Eastern Cape service delivery, poverty levels, unemployment, and economic growth was obtained from the ECSECC website. The dissertations, thesis, and articles that spoke to the study's aim were retrieved from public domains and correctly referenced.

4.6 DATA COLLECTION METHODS AND PROCESS

The main goal of collecting data for research is to address the problem identified and contribute to the body of knowledge. I carefully selected the research instruments to address the research problem and contribute to the body of knowledge. The selected and used data collection instruments allowed for credible data analyses and trustworthy findings (Mensah, 2020). Given the complex nature of the study and for triangulation purposes, I did not use one or two data collection instruments but three of them, which include field observations, interviews, and reviewing the archives.

4.6.1 Primary data

4.6.1.1 Field observations

Given the field observation and findings by Bank and Minkley (2005) for their Eastern Cape study, I also believed that conducting field observation was critical at eMaxesibeni and trying to find out the physical features in terms of the CWP agriculture

sector sites, the infrastructure, and observe thoroughly in terms of other service delivery such as water, land availability, and cultivated land. This is where I moved around different villages across eMaxesibeni, taking field notes and pictures of CWP's different garden sites (Ciesielska, Boström & Öhlander, 2018). For confidentiality and anonymity, no photos were taken and used that showed participants faces. I noticed and captured that other CWP garden sites are better cared for than others; they are fenced and do not struggle with water and the work uniform. However, most of the sites are suffering as they are located very far from the national road, and transport to such sites is a struggle, leading to monitoring and evaluation not taking place. I made notes and took pictures of the gardens for analysis and record-keeping purposes (Genkova, 2020). The field notes and pictures that I took are factual and comprehensive and provide detailed physical features or settings.

During field observation, I took several notes and pictures to tell the story of former Homelands rural development and the efficacy of CWP in bringing sustainable livelihood.



Figure 4.6.1.1: CWP gardens during winter and Mountainous eMaxesibeni (Abongile Pindo, 2023)

The Pondoland region under the Eastern Cape is one of the underprivileged former Homelands. During the apartheid era, the Pondoland was used as a hiding place for apartheid activists. It is a matter of concern that this was an important place of safety during apartheid but that the leaders failed to improve and develop it after apartheid.

As depicted in Figure 4.6.1.1, CWP gardens are not big, and the beneficiaries do not use tractors to cultivate but use forks and spades. The Alfred Nzo District is mountainous and often experiences snow during the winter season. The winter season becomes challenging for the beneficiaries as they lack warm uniforms. After extensive field observation, semi-structured interviews were conducted.

4.6.6.2 Interviews

The second step was conducting individual semi-structured interviews. The open-ended questions allowed the participants to share detailed information about CWP and its contribution and impact on social change and rural livelihood. I used the interview guide. It enabled me to focus and control the interviews, as it contained loosely structured questions and allowed participants to express their views and experiences in a detailed manner.

The use of an interview guide provided several advantages and benefits. It provided flexibility, as I wanted to prompt more participation and a conversation-like interview, so having the interview guide, I was not forced to follow rigid questions. It enabled the participants to respond to relevant questions and ask follow-up questions. With participants who were too shy to answer questions, I used probing skills to prompt them to participate and answer fully and to guide them in providing more information (Mensah, 2020).

I rented a place to conduct interviews and reimbursed participants who used their money to attend the venue. The interviews were mainly face-to-face, but local government officials were telephonic due to their unavailability and work commitments. The interview duration was a minimum of 10 minutes to 35 minutes. All the interviews were audio-recorded.

One of the challenges I encountered was that conducting interviews was time-consuming and costly. Preparing for interviews and transcribing also took a lot of my time.

4.6.2 Secondary data

4.6.2.1 Archives

The third phase of data collection involved secondary data. Secondary data are collected and stored for another purpose and can be reused for multiple purposes, given that the data are trustworthy or credible (Vartanian, 2010). I reviewed and analysed data from the archives to supplement the primary data I collected for triangulation purposes. Given that the archives were not intended for the goal of this study, I carefully scrutinised the selection of documents and reports to be used. One of the sources where I retrieved the data was from government website sources, and the reports reviewed were transparent, public domain, and deemed trustworthy (Martins, da Cunha & Serra, 2018). Journal articles, theses, dissertations, and newspapers were also some of the documents I reviewed from various credible sources of information. To obtain the reports and documents, I followed the following criteria:

- Published between 2008 to 2024
- Reports that spoke to Alfred Nzo's socioeconomic status, Alfred Nzo, and the Eastern Cape socioeconomic status and CWP
- Reports that are written in English with limited grammatical and language errors.

The keywords I used to search the relevant documents include: “Alfred Nzo District municipality socioeconomic status since 2008 to 2024”; “Eastern Cape service delivery and rural development status”; “rural livelihood, homestead, and communal CWP gardens”; “unemployment in Alfred Nzo”; “CWP pilot report in Alfred Nzo”; “Alfred Nzo District IDPs”; “CoGTA CWP reports in Alfred Nzo District and Eastern Cape”.

4.7 STRENGTHS OF METHODS

Semi-structured interviews have several strengths, as I facilitated an in-depth conversation using follow-up questions to probe deeper into the participants' responses. During the conversation, I took notes on the participants' body language and facial expressions, which included signs, silences, changes in facial expressions, etc. (Kakilla, 2021). For field observation, I was able to make a comparison between the villages that I visited and take comprehensive notes.

The reviewing of archives strengthened the research findings. It was also used as a strategy for triangulation and eliminated any bias I may have had.

4.8 DATA ANALYSIS

Both the primary and secondary data were analysed through thematic analysis. I categorised the raw data into meaningful themes, which enabled me to ensure that all the research questions and objectives were addressed. For both the primary data and archives, I ascertain 'codes' to text or sentences that speak to the research problem and objectives. The codes informed relevant themes and subthemes to analyse and discuss critically (Jnanathapaswi, 2021).

After completing my coding, I grouped my codes to form main themes and subthemes. I reviewed my themes several times for completeness and to ensure they covered all codes.

The following is the summary of the process followed for thematic analysis:

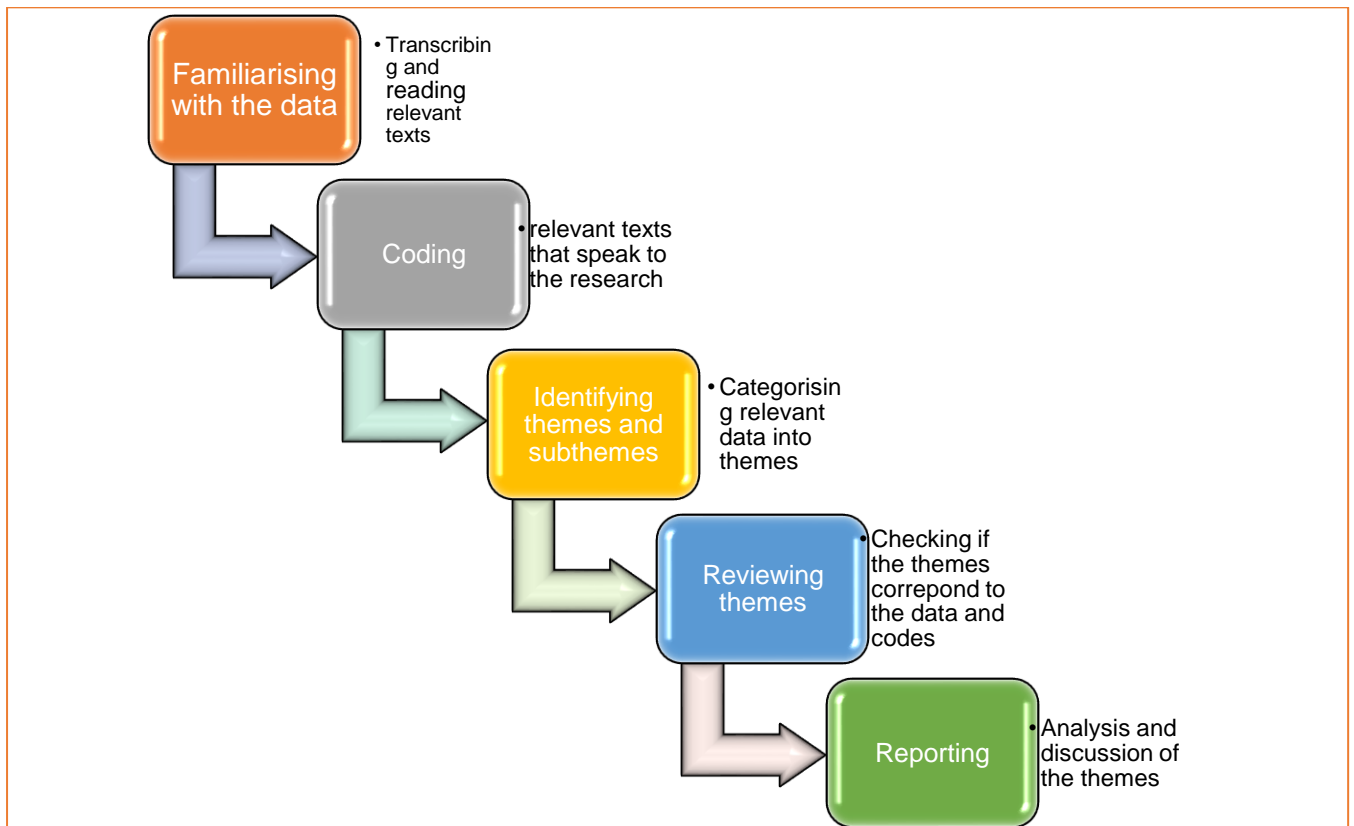


Figure 4.8: Process of thematic analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2006; Jnanathapaswi, 2021).

4.9 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

I followed the following principles and research ethics to protect the participants and ensure the study was credible.

4.9.1 Ethics clearance

I applied for ethics approval from the University of Pretoria and was granted it. The approval letter of ethics from the University of Pretoria is attached to the appendix list.

4.9.2 Gatekeepers' permission

I had long conversations and negotiations with the gatekeepers from the CoGTA and DRDAR. Before collecting any data, I had to gain their permission (Singh & Wassenaar, 2016). After submitting the permission letters and presenting my study, I was granted permission to conduct this research and interview the CWP participants, supervisors, and officials. I assured them of anonymity (De Vos, Strydom, Fouché & Delpont2011).

4.9.3 Consent forms

I received a signed consent form for each participant I interviewed. No participant was interviewed without signing a consent form. I emphasised verbally and in writing that the participants had a right to sign or not sign the consent form. The consent forms were written in English and isiXhosa, and I read aloud all the information in the forms and gave the participants enough time to ask questions and sign them (Singh & Wassenaar, 2016).

4.9.4 Voluntary participation

I ensured that each participant understood that they were not coerced to participate. I emphasised that their non-participation and withdrawal would not impact their employment. For CWP site supervisors and beneficiaries, I assured them that if they decided not to participate, they would not be reported, and their withdrawal would not affect their employment or their salaries. Further, the participants did not experience any harm.

4.9.5 Confidentiality and anonymity

I assured the participants that any identifying personal information would not be shared with anyone or included in the research report. This meant that their identity was anonymous by default. No participant was pressured or forced to participate, and I ensured they knew and understood that they could withdraw at any stage and not be held accountable (Bos, 2020). To ensure the anonymity of the participants, I assigned pseudonyms. For example, 'participant 01,02, etc.' refers to CWP beneficiaries; local

government officials are referred to as officials 1 and 2, and site supervisors are referred to as participants who are site supervisors.

4.9.6 To ensure that their interests are protected

This is where I discussed and answered all the questions that each participant had regarding who would conduct the interviews, where they would be conducted, whether there was any harm, the university that granted me ethics to continue with the research, my supervisor's role, duration of the interviews, and reimbursement of the participants who used their money for transportation and airtime purposes. I also discussed the right to withdraw and the possible contribution of the study results.

4.10 TRUSTWORTHINESS

All research must be trustworthy. Trustworthiness should be evaluated by looking at credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirmability (Lincoln & Guba, 1985).

4.10.1 Credibility

Credibility relates to the truthfulness of the data interpreted and discussed. The findings are credible as there was prolonged engagement with the participants. The transcripts and photos for field observations are available, and documents from archives are available. No data fabrication and falsification was conducted. Triangulation is another strategy I used to ensure the data are credible and truthful. This includes pro-longed observations, interviews, and the use of archives.

4.10.2 Transferability

This involves the findings' applicability to other settings or groups. I ensured transferability by providing a detailed description of the methods I used and the study area.

4.10.3 Dependability

It involves the stability of the result over time. I achieved this by comprehensively describing my methods and ensuring the interview guides were sufficient and appropriate for the participants.

4.10.4 Confirmability

This involves the level or possibilities other researchers can confirm, ensuring that the researcher's imagination does not cloud the findings. I followed the reflexivity strategy to ensure that others could confirm the findings. I assessed my beliefs, position, and judgment, which may impact the research findings. Since I am also a resident of Alfred Nzo eMaxesibeni, I ensured I was objective and unbiased and made no assumptions about the findings. I also used multiple research data collection methods.

4.11 POSITIONING AND EXPERIENCE DURING FIELDWORK

Having lived in Alfred Nzo, however, I did not work as a development practitioner but as a social work intern, which somehow worked for me during the recruitment of the participants and meetings with gatekeepers. I believe that the gatekeepers felt at ease that I was not from outside the Alfred Nzo District. Having studied development studies, the gatekeepers believed I was an ideal person to explore rural development and social change issues and that my findings would have a great impact. However, the gatekeepers and participants did not know me personally. Most of them had never heard of me, and that assisted as they were comfortable sharing and talking to me. If they knew me on a personal level, they would not be comfortable to share.

Fieldwork is challenging yet rewarding, as complex, detailed data are collected. However, I encountered many negative experiences as a researcher, from the initial phase of recruitment until the completion of data collection. Several strategies enabled my research fieldwork to succeed, and I learned some lessons regarding how participants experience and perceive development.

4.11.1 Challenges and successes of fieldwork

One of the successes and factors that made it less challenging to identify participants was that I knew the departments to approach in terms of gaining permission. The department officials were very welcoming and approachable and assisted me with everything required. However, the issue was that they were swamped, so meeting with them face-to-face was challenging because most of our meetings were telephonic, and very few were face-to-face. The officials understood my role, their role, and what I required of them. However, once I gained their permission, there were some challenges in meeting with the participants and starting the primary data collection process.

The sites were far away from each other. This meant that I was going to use more money for traveling. However, to ensure that I was never late and that my data collection was never delayed, I hired a car for traveling purposes, and this made my field observation much easier as I would travel across the sites without having to worry about transport. However, the infrastructure, such as roads, was so poor that some delays occurred. For interviews, I needed to rent a central place for scheduling and conducting interviews, and I had to reimburse anyone who used his or her money for either transport or calling me.

4.11.2 How rural development and dependency contributed to expectations of participants

The participants had their expectations about my reason for visiting them and their sites, and I had difficulty at first. I elaborated and ensured they understood my role there. For example, they believed I was there for service delivery provision, such as providing uniforms and work tools and answering whatever challenges they might have related to CWP. I believe their perception of me being there was influenced by how they perceived development and the dependency that the government creates in terms of service delivery. Rural development is offered through people believing in handouts, not hand-ups. So, the beneficiaries believed I was bringing something tangible for them, such as I had come to address their issues. There are still

fundamental issues in rural areas regarding programmes that aim to improve rural livelihoods. However, I explained myself and my role to them, and eventually, their perception of me changed.

4.12 RESEARCH PROCESS SUMMARY

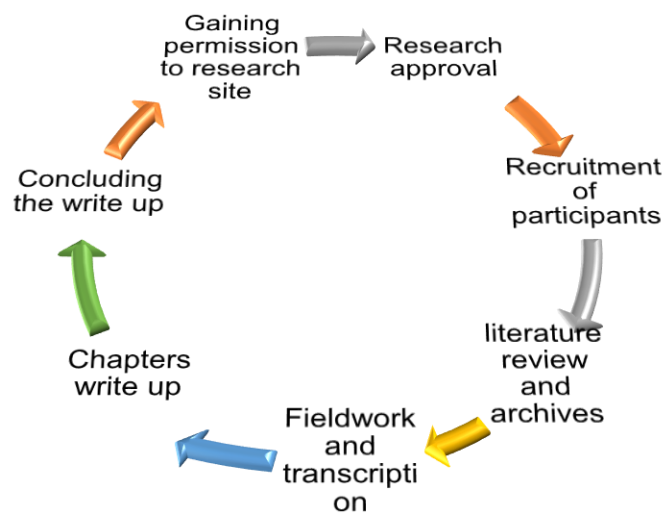


Figure 4.12: Summary of the research process (by Abongile Pindo)

While I was busy with the research proposal, I started the journey of gaining permission to access research sites from the relevant people and departments. This was a lengthy, complicated process, and eventually, I gained the written signed permissions. I then applied for research ethics approval, which was granted without revision. After ethics approval, I started with the recruitment process for primary data while I was busy with the literature review and the review of documents for the study. Primary data collection, including conducting field observation and interviews, began. After I had concluded my fieldwork, I started the transcription and coding process. I continued with the other chapters once all the primary and secondary data were available. This whole process was not as easy as it looks in Figure 8.5. It was challenging and needed much planning.

4.13 CONCLUSION

The chapter critically discussed the choice of methodology, where all of the methods employed to ensure that the study meets its objectives are presented, and they are all relevant. The study's primary research ethics are discussed, and how the research ensured that the correct ethics are applied throughout the study, thereby protecting the participants. Research trustworthiness regarding the credibility of the methods and findings is discussed by providing different strategies. Lastly, this chapter provided the overall fieldwork research experience.

CHAPTER FIVE

FINDINGS ON SERVICE DELIVERY, THE CWP, AND ITS HOMESTEAD AND COMMUNAL GARDENS' IMPACT AND CONTRIBUTION TO RURAL LIVELIHOOD AND POVERTY

5.1. INTRODUCTION

Chapter Four of this study identified and argued the methodological approach followed to ensure the study's objectives are met and the problem statement is addressed. This chapter focuses on data presentation and discussion. Different themes emerged during the analysis of the raw data. I have taken into consideration all the views and experiences that the participants have shared. This chapter presents both the secondary and primary data collected and coded. Different themes emerged and are all discussed.

The raw data's direct quotes are included during the presentation, and a discussion of the findings and literature findings from different scholars is argued to strengthen the findings. The contradicting views are also discussed in both my findings and the discussion section, where the literature reviewed is discussed with regard to the findings. The exit programme plans in this study refer to the strategies in place to assist the participants when they want to leave the programme and ensure that when they leave, they do not return to poverty but have sustainable ways of livelihood.

This chapter extensively argues the effectiveness of social change and community work for rural development and livelihood. It considers the arguments of Kate Philp and Gary Minkley.

The following are the objectives that the study sought to address;

- To identify and understand the projects aimed at social change through CWP;
- To explore the implementation of CWP projects and the agriculture sector in eMaxesibeni Alfred Nzo;

- To determine how the CWP agriculture sector addresses issues of poverty and unemployment in Alfred Nzo eMaxesibeni;
- To explore the recruitment processes and monitor and evaluate the CWP agriculture sector within Alfred Nzo.

5.2. BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS OF PARTICIPANTS

The biographical details of the participants can be found in the Appendix list. All the participants are Black Africans and IsiXhosa speakers. The majority of the participants or beneficiaries of CWP interviewed are females over the age of 35.

5.3. ISSUES OF SERVICE DELIVERY AND SOCIAL CHANGE IN THE EASTERN CAPE

Eastern Cape is one of the provinces that is very underdeveloped. There are a high number of service delivery issues that lead to service delivery protests. I found that the corruption and nepotism in the Eastern Cape are among the main reasons our municipalities are not doing so well in terms of social change and development. The province is always in a tight spot with regard to service delivery issues. The infrastructure is deplorable. For example, there are towns and districts in the Eastern Cape where cars cannot be driven due to a lack of poor roads and bridges.

Monitoring rural development and PWP's is difficult in those areas, and the programmes are ineffective. Rulashe and Ijeoma (2022); Thusi and Selepe (2023) agree that one of the leading causes of the lack of social change and service delivery is the local government's failure to consult local communities about the urgent services they require. There is also a very high issue of government officials' lack of accountability and poor implementation of programmes. The poor implementation of rural development programmes causes social change issues such as high levels of poverty and people leaving rural areas for cities, especially the youth. In the worst situations, the local citizens demonstrate their unhappiness with the poor

implementation of the social change programmes; by Therefore, once the citizens are unhappy with the service delivery, they tend to embark on violent service delivery protests and demolish the already-developed infrastructure. This further delays their targeted social change by the programmes such as improving service delivery, reducing hunger. One of the government initiatives for the promised social change is through PWPs and PEPs.

Rural development and social change are lacking within the province despite several PWP and agriculture programmes. The issues of poverty, inequality, unemployment, and poor agriculture practices have worsened despite the introduction of several development programmes aimed at social change and improved rural livelihood. For example, Some people in the Eastern Cape cannot afford basic needs, and there are a lot of issues, such as child stunting and malnutrition. This shows that these programmes have not fully achieved social change, as Bank and Minkley (2005) described. The province always appears in current episodes and news for poor service delivery. It is distressing that even after 30 years of democracy, there are still critical issues of poverty and unemployment in rural areas. For example, a report by ActionSA, Trollip (2023) shared the devastating fact of unemployment in the province that about 42.1% of people in the Eastern Cape are unemployed, and this is alarmingly high as it is far above the national unemployment rate, which was 32.7% in 2023.

“Abantwana bafundile imisebenzi inqabile”. English translation “Kids are educated but there are no jobs” (Participant 20, July 2023:339)

For only youth, the unemployment rate is approximately 70%. This is devastating as the youth have lost hope and faith in the government, and 1994 promised social change. Because of high unemployment and poor service delivery, youth are resorting to deviant behaviour or crime.

Agriculture in rural areas is also not doing well. There is a lack of motivation for youth to participate in agriculture for their livelihoods and poor agricultural investment. Participating in agriculture programmes offers hope for rural livelihood and social change. However, land and water issues are present in most rural areas. The land is not so fertile, and watering plants is also challenging. There is a lack of drinking water

for domestic purposes, so imagine using water for gardening. This is a sign of social change issues that are highlighted and alluded to by Minkley's social change work in the Eastern Cape that the gardens in the countryside are not cultivated. However, some households practice agriculture, cultivate their own gardens and show commitment and dedication to agrarian lifestyles and identities. However, there are those who do not see the significance of gardening as a social change feature. This is due to the several fields that are lying fallow and are no longer cultivated on a regular basis. This shows that the hunger and stunting of children will continue to demonstrate social change issues.

Hunger and undernourishment of children within the province are some of the factors that determine that the province is doing so badly regarding rural development and social change. The province was recently in the news about its poverty-stricken issues. Where a report by Makhofela (2023) revealed that about 1087 children live a life of hunger within the province, and from that number, 116 children died because of hunger and undernourishment. These cases are only for 2021 and 2022. This makes one wonder if the government keeps the promise of social change and rural livelihood. Additionally, more than 27% of children experience stunting, and this is because of increasing issues of hunger and poverty within rural areas (Makhofela, 2023). This is similar to a report by Jubase and Ellis (2023) that shared that the majority of children in the Eastern Cape are hungry and often sick; some even miss school, and some families live in devastating conditions.

Most families do not benefit from the food parcels from the government due to corruption; for example, the contracted company that delivers food parcels often delays or fails to deliver the food as promised. Issues such as providing RDP houses, fixing infrastructure such as roads, and providing food parcels are urgent needs in rural areas. For many service delivery issues within the province, the government is to be blamed as they have these fancy and well-written IDPs and poverty strategies but lack proper implementation plans. This implies that the government fails to implement its plans effectively, and the rural population is badly affected.

One of the critical issues I found was the ineffectiveness of the IDPs. IDP is one of the government tools that aims for social change of rural areas. However, the way the RDP was implemented showed failure as in some communities, community members are not consulted about the IDP's aims and goals. While some communities are consulted regarding implementation, the government implements something different from the IDP or what they promised, resulting in continued social change issues. This is similar to the study by Asha and Makalela (2020), which found that local government officials have been challenged with poor IDP implementation for the longest time, which has led to poor service. Additionally, Selepe (2023) alluded to the significance of community participation as part of the IDP targets and said that community participation is the answer to the success of IDP processes. Poor implementation of policies and programmes seeking social change for people worsens poverty, unemployment and dissatisfaction with government officials.

5.3.1. Service delivery status in Alfred Nzo and eMaxesibeni

Corruption is another factor hindering rural development programmes' desired social change. Corruption is also a negative impacts service delivery in Alfred Nzo. The abysmal service delivery is another example of social change issues. Corruption worsens service delivery issues; for example, bribery, mismanagement of public funds, service delivery unrest, and poor commitment to effective implementation of the programmes are issues that delay social change in the Eastern Cape and eMaxesibeni. For example, without even interviewing people about service delivery, I saw that infrastructure is deplorable at eMaxesibeni when conducting field observations. Some areas at eMaxesibeni still use traditional bridges to cross the rivers to the other side of the communities, and these communities were promised a decent bridge a long time ago. However, due to corruption issues, it was never built. This supports Mack (2022); Dayimani (2022), who reported that, in one community located at eMaxesibeni in the Eastern Cape, they are compelled to use the artificial traditional bridge, which crosses a big river. This bridge was built 20 years ago as a temporary method for the community to use when crossing the river. Even today, the community still uses this scary wooden bridge to access services such as health care

facilities and schools and go to town for other goods and services. Figure 5.4.1 below is an example of how this bridge looks.



Figure 5.3.1: use of traditional bridge News24 Dayimani (2022)

Apart from the bridge issue, several communities have no proper roads, and the participants shared that poor roads make it difficult for them to travel or even access healthcare services, especially during rainy periods or seasons. The local election period would come, and promises would be made and never fulfilled, and this has been going on for many years.

Participant 03 and 12 shared how the government has failed to meet their promised change:

“No, there is poor service delivery; government often makes promises but does not keep the promises made” (Participant 03, July 2023:256).

“No, there is not much service delivery progress; they are so slow, and the promises are never kept” (Participant 12, July 2023:256).

In eMaxesibeni, there are several communities with RDP houses and toilets. However, some houses are incomplete due to corruption, and some leak due to poor building materials. RDP houses have not been completed since 2016. The promise of RDP houses was one of the social change programmes that the communities longed for, as people still live in sprawling informal settlements with the highest signs of poverty. However, there are disappointments as the built RDP houses are collapsing, and

some communities never receive them, this is a similar case to some of the eMaxesibeni and Alfred Nzo communities. I also found that most participants no longer trust the local government regarding service delivery as they noted that they are very corrupt and do not prioritise the community's needs. Old roads are no longer in good condition and were built long ago, and cars are unable to enter some villages because of infrastructure issues. Additionally, the government is failing to renovate and renew those roads. Even when local government decides to renew the infrastructure, they use cheap labour and materials, and the infrastructure collapses. Infrastructure such as roads are important features of social change. However, eMaxesibe is challenged in terms of accessibility of roads as the majority of the rural villages in Alfred Nzo district are very remote, meaning that they are also very far away from roads and infrastructure.

Participant 16 agreed with my observation in terms of poor service delivery:

“linkonzo azisigculisi kuba izinto esizifunayo azifumaneki, namanzi siyawadinga awafumaneki, imigwaaqo oko yayenziwe ngoku iyamoshakala” translated to “We are not satisfied with service delivery as our needs are not addressed, we have no water, there is very poor infrastructure such as road. The road was constructed a long time ago and now is in bad condition” (Participant 16, July 2023:339).

“Imigwaaqo asiyiboni ilungiswa, yonke into ihamba kakubi kunethe neemvuma, imigwaaqo ayilungiswa” English translation “The roads are not fixed even during rainy seson” (Participant 19, July 2023:339)

If roads that connect communities to central administration are not available, there is still a long way to go to achieve social change. Water is another issue. The social change rural development programmes promised people and communities water, and there are communities with piped water. However, there are those with a shortage of water. For example, the majority of the garden sites of CWP agriculture that I visited complained about water shortages for irrigation and domestic purposes. It becomes impossible to continue gardening without water. One of the critical issues, apart from corruption in terms of service delivery, is the lack of consultation by the local

government. The ward councillors fail to consult their community in terms of their needs. Proper consultation is significant for the community's satisfaction with service delivery. If they are consulted, sustainable community development can be achieved as they may feel part of the development and not only the recipients of services. Participants shared the importance of the government failing to prioritise urgent needs. This is similar to what Rulashe and Ijeoma (2022) have found, stressing that poor communication issues are the main challenge in local governance, as this is evident across several South African local municipalities because local authorities fail to invite the public to make decisions that will affect them.

The findings agree with the paper by Moloto, Mkhomazi and Worku (2020), who concur that South African rural areas, even today, are still challenged by high levels of poor service delivery such as water, infrastructure and healthcare services. It is alarming that 30 years after gaining independence, there are still communities in South Africa without clean drinking water, sanitation, transport, good roads, infrastructure and better quality of education. This is similar to the Alfred Nzo District, where very few people have tertiary education levels and have the highest unemployment rate. Illiteracy and low levels of education are some of the issues that show that social change and development are slow-paced. Also, illiteracy issues hinder public participation in implementing social change programmes and addressing service delivery issues. The study found that lack of public participation hinders effective service delivery. Chili, Akbar, Nyika and Mbonye (2023) contend that limited community participation involvement, high levels of political involvement in governance, no proper communication with the local people, and the failure of top officials to take accountability and prioritise the needs of the public, are the leading causes of poor service delivery. Moreover, the study by Masiya, Davids and Mangai (2021) shares sentiments similar to my findings, that local governance fails due to poor and dysfunctional purchasing and audit committees and financial controls, making them more likely to be involved in corruption. Corruption is the leading cause of the delay in, or absence of, service delivery across all levels of governance. Due to this, the people in affected communities have lost faith and hope in politicians and their promises to come with change. Corruption is also involved during the implementation

of programmes such as the CWP. Recruitment is not transparent, and the money meant for the programme's effectiveness is used for self-enrichment.

5.4. RECRUITMENT CRITERIA OF THE CWP BENEFICIARIES

Many stakeholders are involved in the recruitment of CWP beneficiaries. One of the critical departments is the LED within the local municipality. Similar to findings by Philip (2013), Shumba (2017); Masondo (2018), I found that the key people that the CWP recruited at eMaxesibeni are vulnerable groups, which includes the poor people who are not working, poor people who depend solely on social government grants, and orphans. At first, the CoGTA and LED office wanted people who live with disabilities. However, due to the limited number of people who live with a disability and are interested in participating and earning a stipend, a minimal number of people with disabilities were recruited and participated in the projects for CWP. From the government officials and beneficiaries, I found contradicting information regarding the programme's application in Alfred Nzo at eMaxesibeni. As one participant said, the CWP, across all its sectors, started in 2009, while the other shared that it was rolled out in 2010 but started in 2011 officially in the Alfred Nzo district. The reports by CoGTA agree that it was officially implemented in 2011. However, the information about it starting in 2009 is also correct, as, during 2009, it was just being piloted.

The social change programmes prioritise vulnerable and disadvantaged rural areas and vulnerable people as programme participants and beneficiaries. Key procedures and processes must be followed in recruiting the programme's beneficiaries. All participants shared similar views regarding the people targeted by this programme. Similar to studies by Masondo (2018); Qengqa and Ndaguba (2018); Kobedi et al. (2022), it targets vulnerable and unemployed people in rural communities. The officials specified that it also targeted people aged 18 years and above, including the elderly. For supervisors, it must be someone who can write and attend high school but does not necessarily have a matric certificate. The motivation for not wanting people with matric is that there are very few people who hold matric certificates in eMaxesibeni,

and this is similar to the report by Alfred Nzo District Municipality Integrated Development Plan 2017 – 2022, which noted that in Alfred Nzo, the education level is poor. Very few people have completed high school, so finding site or village supervisors would be challenging if grade 12 was one of the requirements. This shows that literacy is a challenge at eMaxesibe, as the programmes for social change had to diverge from the education level requirement for supervisors due to the limited number of people with matric certificates in Alfred Nzo, eMaxesibeni

The findings for recruiting supervisors are contrary to Mongale's (2022) study, as he found that the CWP field supervisors have prescribed requirements to meet, such as having a matric certificate and possessing previous experience in community work. This means that if someone does not have a matric certificate, they do not qualify for the supervisory posts.

Most of the people participating in this project at eMaxesibeni are women and youth.

A government official emphasised who is mainly targeted:

“It targeted the women, youth and disabled people, yes it targets the disabled the most” (Official 02, December 2023:263).

The findings show that the CWP, as a social change and rural development programme, changed people’s lives. Before the programme implementation, the CWP beneficiaries lived in hunger. Sometimes, they did not know where their next meal would come from, and this was because of unemployment. This implies that being part of the project brought hope to the hopeless and restored faith to many in the communities.

The following participants expressed sincerely how the CWP has brought hope to them:

“The reason I was employed in this CWP project is that CWP assist unemployed people and poor and I was employed like that as I was unemployed and staying at home” (Participant 26, July 2023:256).

“For me to be part of this project it was difficult at the time, it was difficult as I had many things that I couldn’t do because I don’t have money and there is no one working and at home children are attending school then I was employed based on that” (Participant 38, July 2023:256).

Given the history of unemployment and poverty in Alfred Nzo, this CWP is one of the social change initiatives that sought rural development. It promised people social change and many others. Through this programme, the beneficiaries have learnt to use available land and sites to practice gardening, enabling them to meet their basic needs and wants. The beneficiaries can sell the surplus to buy other essentials for the garden and their families. The stipend also assists in sending kids to school and addressing other essentials, even though it is not enough. Philip (2013); Masondo (2018), whose studies showed that the CWP beneficiaries earned income, which plays a critical role in ensuring that they can put food on the table. Many beneficiaries can now supplement their social grants from the government and other sources of income. Participants have shared how the stipend changed their lives for the better .

“Ibuthsintshile bona, ngoba bendihleli ndingena income, so ngoku ndiyayazi nge 25 ndiyafumana.....translated to “It changed my life, as I had no income before, but now I know I will receive the stipend on the 25fith (Participant 08 July 2023:339)

Participants no longer depend on buying everything from the supermarkets; they often buy vegetables from the CWP gardens. This means that rural people see the significant role of gardening in fighting hunger with the hope that there will be fewer abandoned and uncultivated gardens in the future. This would mean rural communities are close to achieving social change by not depending on the government but also growing their food from their gardens. For CWP garden sites, community leaders and ward committees identify the gardening spaces or sites.

The traditional leaders and ward committees play an essential role in identifying the beneficiaries, the garden sites, and the people who will benefit from the garden produce.

5.4.1. Role played by councillors and ward committees in recruiting beneficiaries and identifying CWP sites

Ward councillors and committees play a critical role in identifying the CWP beneficiaries. The ward councillors and committees are key agents of social change and community programme facilitators and implementers. They are the representatives of the community members in local governance. According to most of the study participants, they were recruited by the ward committees. The ward councillors followed different ways to ensure that the number of required beneficiaries was recruited. The target group of qualifying people through different community meetings is then submitted to the councillor. According to several CoGTA CWP reports and interviewed officials, the steering committee was also formed to identify the potential beneficiaries and sites for CWP. The councillors work with the municipality LED department or official to ensure the correct number of qualifying individuals are recruited or added. However, according to the interviewed participants, this process is not always transparent, as some corruption is involved.

For example, to agree with this recruitment process, one official interviewed observed:

“Our recruitment is like this, there may be a space from CoGTA after counting the number of people who have left the programme, and maybe they see that in Umzimvubu, they are 100, and there is a need to add more people and it is us at the office who receives such information and then we communicate that to the municipality LED department then they sit down as officials and councillors and search for those 100 people and share that 100 amongst themselves for example, maybe each councillor must bring 2 people and others 5. Then they go to the communities and select those people through their own way of selection. This manner or way of selection via councillors is not right as they do not choose appropriately or the way we want but there is nothing we can doBecause you are not within their political organisation”(Official 01, December 2023:263).

The study also found that another method that the ward committee uses is the indigent registers from the municipalities. The councillors, from their registers of poor people within their jurisdiction or wards that they lead, identify the poorest people, especially those with no income, and call them to see if they are interested in working under CWP. The majority of the beneficiaries and the supervisors were chosen fairly. They met all the requirements, but few verbally shared that they were selected through their ANC membership and were well-known as political activists.

A female CWP beneficiary shared how she became part of this programme:

“We were hired because we were involved in ANC matters, and then we were employed because we were known as vocal comrades” (Participant 05, July 2023:257).

As I mentioned earlier, corruption negatively affects efforts to bring about social change. From the study, I found that corruption issues occurred during the recruitment of the CWP beneficiaries, as some were hired to this programme because of their activeness in politics and party affiliation. This growing issue hinders social change in the Eastern Cape and causes the failure of different development programmes as the programmes diverge from the targeted aims and processes. Suppose the government official continues to practice dishonesty and corruption. In that case, the programmes will keep failing, and the councillors must change their attitude and be transparent as they are at the forefront of implementing development programmes CWP. This mirrors what is found in the archives and literature review chapter, that ward committees represent community members, and the ward committees decide the work done by the beneficiaries; they are the voice of the community and critical stakeholders of community development (Kobedi et al., 2022; Mokoto et al., 2023).

Contrary to the above, the ward committee and councillor themselves cause the slow progress or failure of many programmes meant for social change and improving livelihood, including the CWP, as, due to lack of transparency and accountability, they divert to their core functions and responsibilities and end up not following the rules and hiring their known political activists and friends; this causes challenges as many people lose hope in the local government and its planned implemented programmes

(Thornhill & Dlamini, 2012; Mzelemu, 2019). This is evidence that one of the reasons for slow-paced social change and rural development is caused by councillors who fail to represent their people with honesty and transparency, and this is also the case at eMaxesibeni, as the participants raised this issue during the interviews. The NPOs and other agencies are agents of bringing the promised social change through the programmes.

5.5. NPO OR AGENCIES AS IMPLEMENTERS: THE SUCCESS AND THE FAILURE

Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) and NPOs play a critical role in ensuring the implementation of social change programmes. The CWP is one of the community-based initiatives, and according to the literature, the community is at the forefront of identifying helpful work. Before 2023, the CWP was implemented by the NPO, and this is similar across the literature review in terms of previous studies, as they agree that NPOs are part of the agencies that ensure the success of the programme; they are involved during recruitment, implementation and monitoring of the programme (Usadolo & Caldwell, 2016; Malose, 2021; du Randt, 2021). This agrees with the archives reviewed and primary data collected in Alfred Nzo; an NPO or agency was contracted to implement the programme. However, due to corruption issues and the failure to meet the objectives, the NPOs were eliminated as implementers, and the government took all implementation to government departments. The government officials appeared pleased with the decision to remove the NPOs as implementers. When he was asked about the reason for this decision, he commented as follows:

“(taking a deep sigh) This question you are asking makes me sick (laughing).....What is happening as this is the government programme neh. So, the government does not run the programme but hires NPOs to run it. It has always been like that since 2009. However, things changed in March 2023. Then the government took over as it was evident that things are not done accordingly, people are eating the money and everything else, so government

is the implementer since March, April until now” (Official 01, December 2023:263).

The second official agreed with the other officials interviewed regarding the removal of the NPOs and the reasons for that removal.

However, what the official shares contradicts what the beneficiaries and supervisors have experienced during the NPO's time; the beneficiaries were happy with how the NPO worked with them and catered to their needs. The company or agencies used to provide training for beneficiaries and site supervisors across all sectors. They mentioned that they experienced limited challenges.

Participants 20 and 25 expressed how the programme was when the NPO implemented it:

“The project was so great when we had a different company. That Coloured did so much for all CWP sectors. But now there is no training we are still using the previous training” (Participant 20, July 2023:257).

“Yes, they once did and at the time the company was managed by a Coloured and they would come often to monitor, that was around 2013” (Participant 25, July 2023:262).

Additionally, the official seems to contradict himself in terms of the effectiveness of the NPO as the implementer. As I found during the interviews with the officials, the NPO could provide most of the inputs and services. However, the materials, work uniform, and other equipment were often late or insufficient for the programme. Sometimes, there were delays in terms of salaries, but that problem was also fixed, and people started getting their salaries on time.

Official 01 shared his dissatisfaction regarding the NPO:

“Yey, when the programme was with the NPOs things were not things were not going smooth. They were buying tools but they were not enough there was always a shortage, they were buying uniform and the uniform was not full uniform or enough for everyone. They paid us better salaries sometimes as the

companies were different and often changed so government took over and we had hope but the programme failed and things changed to worst. They are not doing anything, the programme is falling apart” (Official 01, December 2023:264).

The study reveal that although the NPOs were removed as part of the CWP, there are mixed experiences from the government officials, the CWP beneficiaries and the site supervisors. This means that when comparing the programme in terms of how it is doing now that CoGTA has implemented it and when the implementer was an NPO, the programme did encounter challenges. However, compared to the current ones in monitoring, training and work equipment, those challenges are worse. In agreement with the reason for the elimination of the NPOs from the CWP implementation as shared by officials, a study by Kang’ethe and Manomano (2014) concurs with their reasons as their findings revealed that NGOs and NPOs face issues of limited funding, corruption, mismanagement of funds particularly by the top senior management, poor collaboration and communication between them and the state, and an ineffectively skilled labour force.

Contrary to the findings, the literature disagrees with the government's decision to remove NPOs as CWP implementers, especially in rural areas. For example, Makofane and Selepe (2022); Nwauche (2022) state that the South African government partnership with NPOs is imperative to achieve the development strategies. The government is believed to have failed to deliver effective and sustainable community development initiatives and programmes. Moreover, NPOs are more experienced in community development programmes than the government and specialise in social services. They can reach the remote or rural areas the government fails to reach (Republic of South Africa: Department of Social Development, 2011).

I argue that the government did not make a good decision when they removed the NPOs from the CWP as NPOs are the heart of bringing social change, and they understand community issues and needs. COBs, NPOs, and NGOs play critical roles in social change, such as job creation, rural community empowerment, and food provision. From the numerous government community programmes that failed, there

is evidence that the state cannot provide for rural communities holistically. The reason for this is that NGOs and NPOs function at the grassroots rural level, offering significant services for and with vulnerable and impoverished communities, engaging participatory methods of community development, where ethics purposes are expressed, and dependable mission and priorities are drawn up to initiate and be the voices of people with low incomes. Yes, there are challenges, such as corruption and mismanagement of funds; however, the government departments are also facing issues of growing crime and corruption, and this decision to remove the NPOs may worsen the issues of poverty and service delivery in terms of CWP in rural areas such as the eMaxesibeni and other remote areas which government fails to reach in terms of development.

5.5.1 CWP in bringing about change and rural livelihood

Even though eMaxesibeni is one of the underdeveloped or impoverished areas in the Eastern Cape, there are some significant social changes and developments as programmes such as CWP have brought change in the lives of vulnerable and low-income people such as productive work opportunities, gardening practices and poverty reduction (through community-driven programmes and projects), providing nutritious food for vulnerable groups and learners through school gardens) and skills development for the youth).

“Siyakwazi ulima sifike siphekele abantu abadala..sibaphekele isigwampa”.

English translation “We plant and use the produce to go to elderly homes and cook traditional food for them” (Participant 29, July 2023:339)

The eMaxesibeni is an area where land availability and fertility are a challenge; however, despite such issues, through this programme, I found that the beneficiaries have grown to utilise the available land effectively, such as through CWP homestead and communal gardens. As discussed in a study conducted in Zimbabwe by Chazovachii, Mutami and Bowora (2013), homestead and communal gardens are significant factors in alleviating rural poverty and income generation.

The beneficiaries work on different CWP agriculture gardens, and the ward committees identify these gardens. They include the homestead and communal gardens in public schools, churches, and old people's households and homes. However, it came to my attention that the ward committees did not identify the garden villages or sites and sometimes the beneficiaries and the supervisor. In order to have gardens, they borrow from the people's households. Most villages visited also work in the school gardens. The school gardens have their challenges and success. Regarding success, the learners are provided with nutritious food as they eat vegetables with nutritional value. The communal gardens play a vital role in feeding the vulnerable and generating income for the CWP beneficiaries. Even though the CWP gardens are not progressing well, they contribute to social change and foster agrarian practices for people. Participants alluded to the fact that the CWP gardens do change lives:

“We planted vegetables and once the vegetables were ready to be eaten they the produce was used for school nutritionIt brings change as for example if our vegetables are good and ready and some people are poor and live a life of poverty and we play our role by going to those people and families and give them our produce so that they can cook. Some often come and buy our produce and we use that money to buy more seeds” (Participant 08, July 2023:259).

Participant 09 agreed as follows:

“Our garden practices assisted the school kids as they benefited from our harvest. As the school would buy seeds and then we plant them, then once the produce is ready then the school would harvest so that the learners can have nutritious food” (Participant 09, July 2023:260).

It is evident from the findings that most plants and crops that the CWP agriculture sector practises are spinaches, onions, cabbage, potatoes, and carrots. Apart from helping the vulnerable, which are older people, child-headed homes, and people living with disability, including affording the school nutritious food, the programme has played a significant role in changing the lives of its beneficiaries and site supervisors. As mentioned in previous chapters, this programme is meant for the vulnerable and

poor. Hence, through this programme, the beneficiaries can generate income by receiving their monthly stipend and selling some of the CWP garden produce.

One supervisor and the beneficiaries commented on how their lives changed since they were part of the programme and how people with no incomes have been assisted:

“When I was employed I saw that my life really changed as when I think and look and see people and other youth who are unemployed, maybe I would be part of the people who are doing drugs or part of the youth who lives on the streets. My life really changed after working in this programme I don’t want to lie.....And those poor old people, for example we plant for them and the households with orphans and kids with disabilities we also plant for them” (Participant 43 (Site Supervisor), July 2023:260).

“It is trying to improve our lives as no one would be giving us stipend. It really changed our lives as if it was not because of CWP most of us we will be domestic workers. At least now we are getting something....We give the school and sell to the community” (Participant 20, July 2023:260).

“Mna shame indincede kakhulu kuba yiyona mali ndiphelele kuyo le ndikwazi uthenga ukutya nangona incinci nje but ndiyayibonga ngoba bendingenayo” English translation “ The stipend helped me a lot as I only depend on it , I am able to buy food, even though it is little but I am grateful” (Participant 19, July 2023)

“My sister yabutshintsha kakhulu ubomi kahle kahle ekhaya kunodadewethu ofundayo omncane ngoba umama naye ebengakarholi kengoku bendincedisa ekhaya eskolweni, into ezinje nge fees othole ukuba kufunwa imali ischool fund, zonke nje iingxaki ibincedisa kona nangona nje ibincane, kodwa ebuncaneni bayo ibincedisa njengoba ndingumntu onombulelo”. English translation “My sister it changed my life for the better, actually I have a younger sister who is still in school and my mother at the time was not receiving grant and I was supporting at home and pay the school fees and address all challenges, it was

assisting even though it was not enough but I am someone who is grateful”
(Participant 29, July 2023)

However, not all beneficiaries of the agriculture sector felt the same regarding the contribution of the CWP, and it is faced with many challenges, the main issue being that the stipend is significantly low, and with that stipend, it is unlikely to achieve the social change promised by the programme. For example, the literature review supports the findings about the stipend issue, which is that the stipend is too low to meet all the participants' basic needs. I found that some beneficiaries have many responsibilities that need this same stipend. For example, for some of the beneficiaries, this stipend is their main and only income, and they have to support their families and send their children to school and university. The issue of having minimal communal CWP gardens also hinders them as they are forced to borrow gardens from the neighbourhood. Once the produce is ready, the money generated from such gardens belongs to those people. They, as beneficiaries, do not benefit much from the gardens as sometimes there is not enough produce due to land issues and seeds.

One participant shared how her life has not changed due to her many family responsibilities:

“My life did not change as much, the project is not doing so great. Yes they did say the money will be little as it is for toiletries but it is too small as send children to school and it becomes worse when you are a single parent as you need to provide food and uniform , there is also school fees and our children are in high school even those who are in university, as NSFAS sometimes delays payments and that child will be away and needs money for food. For example, now my two children: one is in university and one college, the NSFAS money is not approved yet, now I must take from the stipend so that the child get food and end up those at home suffering. For example if you have Maize meal, salt and oil, some essentials you do not know where you will get them. I wish, yes the Lima project they do not have money but I don't know what they can do but a raise would do good. We have community gardens that belongs to people, as the project called community work. We work for those people, so we plant,

water the garden for that person and it belongs to that person and when we sell we sell for that personalso to help the poor people where we can and give them vegetables that we have” (Participant 33, July 2023:260).

The previous literature, such as Mathende (2015); Mongale (2022); Kobedi et al. (2022), are in agreement with the findings regarding the positive impact that the CWP brought to the vulnerable group and the beneficiaries in terms of food gardening. Similar to CoGTA KZN (2019), the CWP-based projects contribute significantly to achieving social change for the beneficiaries and their households as these projects provide income above the poverty line. They offer employment opportunities and skills development, including labour skills for future permanent employment. In this study, the participants had a favourable view and belief towards CWP's impact on community development. They believe that this programme has brought them light and dignity. Even though the stipend seemed very low, it significantly impacted their lives (Mongale, 2022).

Through the stipends, the beneficiaries can support their families. It has allowed them to have a sustainable monthly income and the ability to be part of development change agents in their small communities (DCoG, 2018). Similar to the findings, TIPS (2011) alludes to the fact that the CWP garden projects are critical in ensuring that households have food, vulnerable groups are supported, and schools are provided with healthy and nutritious food. Now, the children at schools can enjoy their food and eat healthy foods, and this is because of the CWP communal gardens located in schools, meaning that the school's feeding schemes have improved their nutritional values (Mathende, 2015).

5.6. OVERVIEW OF THE HOMESTEAD AND COMMUNAL GARDENS

Through extensive fieldwork and field observation, it is clear that the CWP garden sites are not monitored or treated the same way. For example, eMaxesibeni has many different CWP site villages; however, in terms of their effectiveness, they are not the same, and even the supervisors mentioned that the villages that are very far from the

national roads or towns are not given full attention and monitoring and evaluation. This is caused by issues mentioned earlier, such as poor infrastructure and lack of transport going to such areas or villages. The villages closer to the offices or towns are often planted, and the service is better.

One official stated the reasons for poor village site visits:

“Another challenge again there is no transport to use to go and monitored people on sites and therefore the people on sites do as they please....I am the one who must have transport for site visit to check if they are working as they sleep on duty as we are not there and they know that we are not coming.....The site visit issue I am supposed to conduct them daily or weekly or even everyday as it was like that at first where we did site visit everyday or trice a day depending on the car availability. Now even the money we get for site visit it is little and we also getting very low salaries then we end up using it and end up not going to the site visits. So it’s like that and even if we do go we visit those around town and around the road. Not those who are far for example Gogela, you see?.....For example in the morning they are going to town and afternoon that the time they are leaving town to rural areas. So it is hard like that. This is the thing that I am supposed to do weekly, us as the office staff we are monitored also as they conduct visits and I can’t say this is done monthly or annually they come anytime” (Official 01, December 2023:261)

The following is an example of Figure 5.6, the picture I took during field observation depicting how villages are treated differently.



Figure 5.6 (a): Different sites and how their vegetables look like (Abongile Pindo, 2023)

These pictures were taken in June 2023, but the one on the left side is one of the communal gardens near the National Road, and the one on the right is very far from CoGTA offices and the roads. Regarding the one located near the road, the study found that even though the CWP garden sites are not provided with seeds or equipment, the beneficiaries and site supervisors are forced to use their money to ensure that their garden stays cultivated and that they have something to show should the management decide to pass by as they usually pass by to check up on them. However, in the other one on the right, the participants mentioned that, given that they are very far away and they are not given seeds and equipment, they use their own home or personal gardening staff. Sometimes, due to poor fencing their produce is destroyed by livestock. The site supervisors have reported the issue, and was never addressed, and they often felt demotivated. This is proof that poor implementation and prioritization of the programme resources may cause the programme to fail in its attempt to bring about social change.

Below is how the participants shared that the livestock destroys their produce:

“We are in shortage of fencing material” (Participant 20, July 2023:261).

“Fencing is poor for example the livestock would enter the garden and destroy the garden” (Participant 33 (Site Supervisor), July 2023:261).

“There was a case since the wiring poles are very old and broken the cows entered and ate everything and we had no produce now we saw that we must go to the forest and cut poles and asked boys to assist us and now we are independent as we often ask for wire and poles but they never gave us” (Participant 35, July 2023:261-262)

The picture on the left hand is fully fenced, and they do not even suffer the issue of livestock of water, and the garden is located near water streams. On the other hand, the one on the right-hand side, watering is challenging as the community taps are often broken and without water. They fetch water from their households, which is challenging because their houses are not nearby. This leads to the garden failing to produce the desired vegetables.



Figure 5.6 (b): Community water sources (Abongile Pindo, 2023)

Figure 5.6 (b) shows that even the ward committees or local government support the communities near to the main administration. These two water tanks are located one minute away from other CWP communal gardens, and they are very helpful in watering and being a water source for domestic purposes in the surrounding households. However, having travelled across different villages, I have found that most villages do not have this privilege and struggle with a lack of access to water. Lack of water is proof of social change issues that are still prevalent in most communities.

Below are two comments from two different sites in terms of water availability for watering:

“We have watering cans. And water our garden.....No, they are not far maybe we take 10 minutes to go and fetch water. They are not far, if they can help us with water so that our plants and garden can go well, we complain about the water mostly” (Participant 45, July 2023:262).

“We are fetching water very far so is our garden...it would be better if we would get a close by tap so that we can water and our plants can grow” (Participant 46, July 2023:262).

Poor site visitation by CoGTA management highlights a big concern for the progress and impact of the project towards its purpose. Monitoring and evaluating the CWP project is significant as the results thereof can determine if the beneficiaries and site supervisors are doing their jobs and if the programme is progressing well. Similarly, Johannes (2016) contends that, without proper monitoring and evaluation, it is difficult to determine the progress of the programme, and the implementers cannot determine the challenges that are faced by the beneficiaries. To concur with my findings, similar studies by Shava and Thakhathi (2016); Mkhwanazi (2019) indicated that many government development programmes fail because they are not monitored; this failure is caused by a lack of resources such as well-trained development practitioners, poor infrastructure, limited budget and poor resources meant for the project. According to participants' interviews and different CoGTA reports, the programme is failing because there are no effective village or site visits, as the results of site visits can determine the effectiveness of the programme implementation.

5.7. DIFFERENT WAYS THAT THE CWP HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO FIGHTING POVERTY AND UNEMPLOYMENT

The Eastern Cape province and eMaxesibeni under Alfred Nzo district are known for their high unemployment and poverty. According to Bank and Minkley (2005), poverty

and unemployment are signs of poor social change and underdevelopment. Another feature of poor social change is that, many people solely depends on government social grants, and there are poor or low levels of education. Even those with matric and post-matric qualifications experience unemployment and poverty due to a lack of job opportunities within the district. The participants expressed that even those with matric certificates and university graduates are unemployed. This means that if the educated youth struggles to find employment, they might regard education as useless or no longer the key.

The primary and secondary data reviewed show mixed results regarding the programme's contribution to fighting poverty and unemployment at eMaxesibeni. The reports showed a significant change as the programme did and still provides many deserving people with employment opportunities and skills development. The gardening skills gained are critical for labour market competition when exiting the programme, and skills development is a significant feature of social change and development. The majority of the participants showed appreciation for being part of this programme as it has contributed significantly to their lives in terms of the provision of employment. All the beneficiaries were unemployed, and being employed under this programme has contributed to livelihood and poverty alleviation which are associated with social change of a community.

“Kuhlalehlale kuqeshwe, umntu oke wengezwa ongathi uyiwani apha kuthi”.
English translation “They take long time to hire more people, only one person was added on our group” (Participant 19, July 2023:339)

“Mmmh....Zayibeka kanjani...ewe iqesha kakuhle noba ke kusuke zikhona izikhalo apho kukhona umntu, okanye athi omnye bendiyile mna kutheni kwazoqeshwa wena kanti kujongwe nesimo sakho”. English translation “MMmh, how am I going to put this..yes it does employ people fairly even though there are complaints where there are people, as someone would say I did go but why they hired you instead not knowing that they also check circumstances of an individual” (Participant 27, July 2023:339)

However, some participants felt strongly that this programme could do more in terms of recruiting more people as beneficiaries and finding more communal gardens as there are sites with very small gardens. Despite challenges, the employed beneficiaries have experienced positive change and livelihood.

Participant 26 expressed how the programme has contributed to her to her life:

“One thing I am grateful of is that I was sitting at home and unemployed and through CWP I have an income now, even though the stipend is not enough for my needs but it’s better than receiving nothing. Its employment is slow and they only employed when another person has left the project for example if one of us get a better employment elsewhere then they leave the CWP will employ only then. So, they only replace people” (Participant 26, July 2023:251).

“Iyayilwa indlala kakhulu xasithe sangaphazanyiswa zizinambuzane”.
Translated to “ Gardens fight poverty especially if there are no inserts”
Participants 16, July 2023:340).

However, there are also complaints that employment is very slow in recruiting more beneficiaries and replacing those who have exited the programme. Most of the beneficiaries were not happy about this and complained that this programme has the potential to employ more people, but it is not recruiting. For example, from the field observations and interviews, the supervisors shared that some communal gardens are very big, and the number of beneficiaries assigned to those gardens is limited. This leads to the beneficiaries not cultivating the whole garden but only small sections, and they shared this with their management, but nothing has been done yet. For example, there are gardens with only 5 beneficiaries, and there are others with more than 10. This means that the programme has the potential to bring the promised social change, but there are issues it must address first. Additionally, there are a limited number of site supervisors and stockkeepers, as the beneficiaries complained that, in most cases, they are doing two jobs but earning a salary of one, which is being a supervisor. Moreover, the sites they are supervising are many and far away from each other, and that is a strain as they have to walk to that site or use their own money as the

management does not provide the money for their transport for site visits and during the administration period.

A site supervisor complained about the problem of shortages of beneficiaries and supervisors:

“We have a problem that we have shortage of employees/participants especially my village we only have 5 per village and myself I work two jobs one being a supervisor and on two being a stock keeper. When I have a problem and it needs a stock keeper I struggle as when I leave the site there will be no one to oversee the site and after being a stock keeper I must be a supervisor as well.. There is no progress” (Participant 14 (Site Supervisor), July 2023:262).

Another issue is that the programme has more older beneficiaries than youth. I saw this during the field observations, and it was shared during the interviews. This challenges efforts for social change, as youth is the backbone of development through programme participation. However, this is not visible for the CWP agriculture sector as youth participation is lacking.

Interviewed government officials showed their dissatisfaction with the programme as it is dominated by older people at eMaxesibeni:

“You can see we have older people in our programme as we have 23300 employees and we only have 203 young employees” (Official 01, July 2023:267).

However, the officials revealed various reasons for this. The youth do not find the CWP agriculture sector more attractive.

“Attract more youth people. Another thing is that more older people are getting old age pension grant to the programme. I wish they can be removed and be replaced by other people as there is more space available but the older people are occupying such space” (Official 01, December 2023:267).

From the above quote one can argue that there is a lack of investment in agriculture, and in general, the government is failing to show the youth that agriculture is part of economic growth. There is also limited agriculture, technical, job exposure and generic skills training where youth would be empowered with skills and obtain certificates. Despite the challenge, the CWP agriculture sector seemed to be one of the sectors that enable people to have daily food through their gardening activities; the beneficiaries no longer sleep without food as they have gained agriculture skills where they can plant their vegetables and sell them to generate income and even eat from the CWP gardens.

Even though most of the study participants feel that the stipend is not enough, there are a few who felt that without it, they would be living a life of poverty and depending on handouts from neighbours. Some participants commended and showed appreciation for the stipend they are receiving, given the unemployment rate in South Africa, and stated that the stipend contributes to buying food for their families and provides them with dignity. The more heart-warming gesture is that the participants mentioned that the vegetables they plant from the CWP gardens also support the vulnerable as they can give the poor and vulnerable some of the produce without charging them. They sometimes sell around and use the money to buy more seeds to continue planting.

One participant showed her gratitude regarding this project and how it has significantly changed her life and others:

“Hey my sister it really changed my life as at home I have a sister who is studying and at the time my mother was not receiving the grant and this money we get it assisted in paying school stuff such as fees even though we see that it is little but I am someone who is grateful as I am able to support at home and my sister and I appreciate it as it really improved my home circumstances. ..They really assist my sister for example we found that some other people are poor and we support them and give them our produce for free. Moreover, in terms of us it assists our salary as we can't borrow money a lot as we can borrow from the project money and when we retuning it we can come with more

seeds and sometimes the team would say do not bring it back as they know your dedication and also it helps with home consumption for us the employees. If you are someone who works well in a team the money from profits made it really assist ...Yes it is trying and when I look around it is really employing the poor people who are unemployed and receives no income. And I can say that it only employs the destitute people not unqualifying ones” (Participant 30, July 2023:262).

Apart from the job opportunities provided by the CWP, some of the beneficiaries and officials interviewed commended that agriculture has done more than job creation; it has also played an important role in skills development and motivated youth to love agriculture and see the future in it, this is important as it shows that people see the potential of gardening and using the available land. A few of them shared that they initially did not like or know anything about agriculture planting and caring for the garden. However, through this programme, they have their own small home gardens, which are doing well, and they use these gardens to generate more income and even share with the needy; by doing this, issues of poverty and unemployment can be addressed in rural areas through the promotion of gardening. One site is doing so well that once they had a great produce, it motivated them to fill wheelbarrows with their produce and head to town to sell. If the site can be supported and financed, the beneficiaries can do more, enhance their entrepreneurial skills, and use the available land. Some of the beneficiaries interviewed shared that this programme did bring social change, and they are homeowners because of it.

Two of the participants shared enthusiastically how they became homeowners through the CWP agriculture sector:

“I had no place to stay that I can call my own but I managed to get a site and through this project I was able to build a home. I have my own house because of this stipend” (Participant 05, July 2023:262).

“It changed my life this project I can buy bread and I do not sleep hungry. I can send my child to school using my stipend ...We also benefit as we also harvest

the produce from those gardens to also give to other poor people who have no gardens” (Participant 35, July 2023:263).

“Iyancedisa kakhulu, abanye abantu thole ukuthi siyabazi ukuba bakhona abantu abadala abathithi ntweni siye sibavelele naboziyancedisa apha emrholweni ukuthi inyanga imbi uboleke kwalapha..yey khanindiboleke bakuboleke nyani. Nyani ke xasenirholile ndiyibhatale, tholeukuthi masindiyibhatala zove ndize nezithole kanje”. English translation “It is helping a lot, as we know others they are poor and have nothing especially oder people we usually help them....they are also helping in terms of our salary especially during tough month as we borrow money from our garden , after getting paid i pay back the money and sometimes bring seeds” (Participant 30, who is the supervisor, July 2023:263)

However, these views differ from other beneficiaries and the other CWP garden sites. As I shared previously, there are those that are well-maintained and others that are not. Some beneficiaries shared that they do not have any productive CWP garden sites to the extent that they can sell the produce and use the money to compensate for their stipend, which is less than R1000 a month.

“Lonto incinci ike indincedise phaya naphaya...nokuthi kwenzeke sityale uyakwazi uphuma nento yokuncedisa emndenini”. English translation “The money I am receiving even though it is not enough but it assist there and there. Also garden produce do assit us in helping and feeding our families” (Participant 27, July 2023:340)

They complained that they are forced to use the stipend to buy the seeds and other needs for their garden as they want to continue working so that the managers can see that they are willing to do anything to keep on the programme. However, sometimes it becomes difficult as the money they spend buying pesticides, chemicals, and seeds is the money that must sustain themselves and their families.

The programme can be more successful for rural livelihood in fighting poverty, employment creation and income generation if the government can be more hands-

on in ensuring that all the inputs are provided and the sites are treated the same. Also, the government should encourage people to practise home gardening so they do not depend on supermarkets for vegetables and crops they can grow. This can be done through workshops and training. This means that once the youth see that the government prioritises agriculture, they may start seeing value in it and want to be part of it.

The participant who is part of the youth group from the programme alluded to and agreed on ways that the youth can be encouraged to be part of this:

“They must come and train us themselves. This can better our progress and give us motivation especially us the youth to even share at home about the trainings that are provided. They can be beneficial that we will know that we have a skill that we can use. This can also attract people to come and buy and there will be more motivation from us to keep pushing and love our job” (Participant 11, July 2023:263).

This came after she saw that the youth hesitated to participate in this programme and did not know how it could change their lives forever.

The findings are similar to those of Olonde, Agowo and Oyoo(2021), whose study shared the essential role of agriculture in nutrition and employment creation. Moreover, I found that most of the CWP beneficiaries at eMaxesibe are women. This concurs with Meyer and Nishimwe-Niyimbanira's (2016) study findings, which indicated that women are the main active participants in agriculture and caring for households compared to men. Given that through the CWP agriculture sector, the beneficiaries are empowered to the extent that they develop entrepreneurship skills by starting their own gardens and selling around the community, this shows that in rural areas, agriculture can be the answer to the increasing unemployment. This agrees with the study by Sikwela et al.(2018) that showed that agriculture is the solution to ensure development in rural areas, and the government must ensure this by resolving land issues first. Land is a valuable asset for rural livelihood and poverty reduction efforts and land is a valuable asset for growing food.

It is evident and arguable that the CWP beneficiaries lived a life of struggle, and this programme shed some light on this issue. Most beneficiaries struggled to meet basic needs as most were not receiving grants. Without this programme, they would still struggle to feed themselves and buy essentials. Despite some of the issues the programme has, the findings prove that it is really helpful for ensuring the beneficiaries' sustainable livelihood. Apart from providing gardening skills, the stipend is one of the critical resources the participants shared that is helpful for their household's essentials. The produce from the gardens supports not only the beneficiaries but also the poor and vulnerable. Thus, the continuation and progress of this programme and the agriculture skills are considered valuable assets for community development (Malete, 2016).

On the other hand, the CoGTA reports and the management responsible for ensuring that the effective programme runs smoothly and is aligned with its objectives and mandate, agree that this programme is fighting poverty and contributing to employment creation across communities. The literature agrees with this as it alludes to the fact that many participants of the CWP have gained important gardening skills and knowledge and sees the importance of agrarian practice which is significant in fighting social change issues such as poverty and hunger, for example, the gardens are used to fight household poverty; the participants also gain work experience and work exposure through this programme (Andersson & Alexander, 2016). Moreover, the CWP, since its implementation of the annual reports, proves that the lives of many qualifying individuals and vulnerable groups have improved for the better (CoGTA, 2016).

However, numerous studies disagree with this; for example, Mogagabe (2016) disagrees and claims that development programmes, such as PWPs, are failing in terms of changing the lives of the people; for example, removing them from burdens of poverty and unemployment and this is because of several issues such as maladministration. Previous research studies on CWPs, such as Mullagee and Bruce (2015); Langa (2015), argue that the CWPs in many South African Municipalities have not achieved significant change or transformed rural communities as speculated

through the CWP policy document as many rural areas still lack significant technical and generic skills and skills such as plumbing, bricklaying, welding, gardening and electrical skills which are necessary for the labour market.

However, the agriculture sector, through food production, seemed to be doing well in some municipalities; for example, a study by Mathende (2015) concludes that the CWP various vegetables or food gardens have contributed to children in school having a nutritious feeding scheme and the beneficiaries gaining skills of agriculture which may sustain themselves. The main issues that I argue might be the lagging effectiveness of social change are corruption, poor monitoring and evaluation and land availability issues. If these were to be resolved, the programme might achieve more regarding rural livelihood and social change as promised to people.

5.8 CHAPTER CONCLUSION

The findings regarding the contribution of the CWP as a development programme that promised social change to people and rural communities are mixed. This shows contradicting views regarding the social change the CWP agriculture sector brought regarding poverty eradication, employment creation, and skills development. Even though the beneficiaries can now afford to buy, feed their families, send children to school and pay for their essentials through the stipend, there are corruption issues that hinder the programme's progress toward social change as older people dominate the programme, the stipend is below the poverty line and that the skills development is not prioritised. The only skills that the beneficiaries shared that they receive are gardening skills, such as how to plant certain vegetables and crops. However, they never received the technical and generic skills that would assist them in starting entrepreneurship and even completing the labour market; lack of youth skills development is a sign of community underdevelopment and hinders social change initiatives to end poverty and unemployment. The signs of social change issues are still prevalent despite the introduction of CWP, as the youth still depend on the child support grants; grandparents are forced to care for their grandkids as their mothers



have migrated to bigger cities for greener pastures. However, some remained behind, hoping for social change, as they hesitated to leave their home villages. For example, during local and national elections, the government promised villagers land and service delivery, but there is still little development and change for rural livelihoods. The youth are even demotivated to vote as they are unhappy with the government regarding the promised social change.

CHAPTER SIX

FINDINGS ON CWP CHALLENGES AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

6.1 INTRODUCTION

Chapter Six focuses on findings and arguments based on the challenges experienced by the beneficiaries, site supervisors, and implementing officials. Homesteads and communal gardens have tried to improve many people's lives by providing rural livelihood opportunities and skills development. The development programmes aimed to provide income opportunities. However, some challenges exist, such as low stipends and a lack of working tools. The CWP at eMaxesibeni has improved rural livelihood through safety net employment and gardening projects. However, some issues exist, such as the beneficiaries' lack of PPE and employment security. This proves that the journey to achieving social change is complicated, and social change is slow, not an overnight achievement, and is not without challenges. And how these programmes are addressed is important

6.2 CHALLENGES THAT HINDER THE CWP TOWARDS ITS SUCCESS

This section presents different challenges that challenge CWP beneficiaries and impact the overall CWP's ability to realise social change.

6.2.1 Poor provision of the work tools, uniforms and seeds

lives. It is mandatory and documented in the policy implementation policy or plan that work equipment and uniforms be provided and that the beneficiaries under no circumstances have to work without protective clothing and equipment. The success of the CWP agriculture sector in terms of gardens lies in providing work tools or equipment such as spades, fork spades, watering cans, fertilisers, seeds, fencing,

and, given that the beneficiaries are using dangerous work equipment, protective clothing is essential.

Site supervisors have also complained that there are no work tools and seeds and this causes a delay.

“Asinanto zokusebenza ne seeds”. English translation “We do not have work tools and seeds” (Participant 32, who is a site supervisor, July 2023:340)

“Izityalo besizinikwa sisikolo u CWP akasasiniki nto” English translation “The school used to provide us with seeds as the CWP is no longer giving us anything” (Participant 14, who is the supervisor, July 2023:348)

The government reports on CWP detailed that the beneficiaries have the required equipment and uniforms. However, during field observations and interviews, I found a different situation. In most of the sites I visited, the beneficiaries and their supervisors wore their own clothes, but there were no gloves or safety boots.

“Into esiyikhalazela kakhulu yimbewu ne unifum into ezifana namaquze okusebenza azikho kakuhle....aiskwazi usebenza kakuhle ngokuba uke ufumanise ukuba umsebenzi siwena ngokulindana...sitshintshisana ngezizinto sisebenza ngazo”. English translation “What we complain more about are the seeds, uniform such as work boots....we can’t work productively as we must wait for each other” (Participant 17, July 2023:340)

“Into esake sayinikwa yi overall neskipa, I bhontsi kudala sagqibela ukuzinikwa and yiyona sisebenza ngayo kakhulu” English translation “One thing they once gave us are the overalls and shirts and in terms of boots its something that we received long time ago yet we work with it all the time” (Participant 19, July 2023:340)

“Nalapha equzeni, sipeta ngamatenesi because ii tools asinazo, amaquze asinawo..Il work suit zona hayi sinazo and akuyonto ekufane uyinxibe. Iquze ngu ndoqo namatholisi..siyi three efotshelweni eyi one yiyolonto edala sisilele uyayiqonda uba siyahlala”. English translation “Work boots are not provided,

we use sneakers. We have no tools but in terms of work suit we do have as we do not often wear them but boots are a need...We are three in one spade and that is the cause of our delay you understand that we must sit and do nothing” (Participant 20, July 2023:340)

Regarding work equipment for their gardens, some only had one spade, and they all used this one spade and rotated amongst themselves. This frustrated them as they shared that this rotation or having to wait for the spade delays their progress, and they appeared to be not working; this challenges them as the result is not having good produce. There are sites, however, with some of the uniforms and equipment available for the beneficiaries. However, the vast majority have none.

The beneficiaries and site supervisors also said they would be promised full uniforms. They even provided their sizes, but after a long time, the uniform would arrive, but not a complete one as maybe they would get just one or two items, and those that got safety boots found the boots were either too small or too big. This frustrates the beneficiaries as they are given false hope. On rainy days or seasons, it becomes tough for the beneficiaries as they are forced to wear their clothes to protect them from cold, and sometimes they cannot go to the sites due to no raincoats or warm work jackets. Additionally, as I visited during winter and a week after snow, the beneficiaries wore blankets and personal clothing. During interviews, they shared that sometimes their dignity as employees suffers. People do not take them seriously because of this work uniform issue and do not feel they are fully part of the programme.

The majority of beneficiaries, including supervisors, shared how this issue impacts them:

“Working material are not provided and we depend on the tools from our houses. ...We once did talk to the managers and the only thing that was brought was one spade onlyIn terms of uniform it comes once in a while and we wait again for the longest time and even when they bring uniform the uniform is often not enough as there is another thing that are short. For example, they would give us T-Shirts with no working boots or we get pants with T-Shirts. We Do not have jackets or uniform now” (Participant 01, July 2023:263).

“As workers we don’t have rain coats for rainy days, we don’t have the overalls, no safety boots for working. I Only got the uniform onceThere are a lot of things that makes this project to fail as we also do not have relevant working tools or equipment” (Participant 03, July 2023:263).

“They usually brought and sometimes the boot sizes they do not match, they bring wrong sizes. We do not have work tools we use our personal ones” (Participant 32 (Site Supervisor), July 2023:263).

“We don’t have uniform even when it is raining we can’t go to work because we have nothing to wear as it is raining ..Yes, we work outside and that is a challenge as when it is raining we don’t have rain coats and boots and we end up not going to work, we don’t have jackets or hats. And me as the supervisor I need to sacrifice for the beneficiaries and end up not having anything. We don’t have boots and if they are giving us boots they will give us oversize. Some wards literally don’t have uniform. We are pleading them to support us with uniform and winter uniform” (Participant 14 (Site Supervisor), July 2023:263-264).

However, contrasting views or experiences regarding this equipment and uniform issue exist. The officials shared that the required work equipment, including protective clothing, is provided to all the beneficiaries and site supervisors. The required material is ordered on time to ensure the beneficiaries do not have to wait long.

The government officials and reports agreed with each other that all the materials and uniforms are available:

“In terms of inputs I am the one making orders and they report in time and say what they need and sometimes I know what they need then I make an order with quantities and count for the whole site, I then deliver. However, I do this when there is a budget” (Official 01, December 2023:267)

“What are they getting is the uniform nothing more, they get uniform and boots and we call the PPE...They are provided by national CoGTA before there was

an implementing agent that was in between CoGTA and participants” (Official 02, December 2023:268).

Nyoka (2016); Kuta (2022), who conducted a study about CWP, shared similar issues that this programme lacks, especially regarding the agriculture sector. Across the local municipality, the agricultural inputs, work resources and uniforms hinder the beneficiaries' work effectiveness, and the implementing departments are delaying the resolution of this issue. Additionally, the lack of PPE and work tools provision by CWP diverges from employees' health and safety rules, as it stipulates that all employees who use hazardous working material must wear safety clothing. This is an issue for CWP beneficiaries on garden sites as some wear sneakers while others, very few, wear safety boots. Most sites used their equipment, such as spades, forks, etc.

To the contrary, the CWP policy stipulates that the beneficiaries, under any circumstances, are forbidden from using their own equipment as the programme provides everything. This appears not to be true at all. For example, the DCoG (2018) reported that intensive labour and the use of dangerous materials are required for this programme. However, protective clothing and work materials or equipment are not a priority for the implementing department, which endangers the beneficiaries' lives. The participants were also forced to buy seeds themselves; however, the school gardens provided seeds to be cultivated, which was really helpful.

The issue of having to buy seeds frustrates the beneficiaries financially, as many shared how they manage to buy them:

“It is not helping us at all as we are selling only to use the money to buy more seeds and be able to plant again so that CoGTA and can see when they come to us they the work progress and not think we are eating the money” (Participant 44, July 2023:264).

“We don't have them we use the school seeds: We all contribute towards buying the seedsIt does as people we would agree that we will contribute maybe R30 and people don't come with the money and they would say they can't afford that as they are paid low stipend” (Participant 11, July 2023:264).

This is saddening as the implementers are responsible for ensuring that the inputs required are provided across all sites. The findings regarding the input and equipment issue are similar to those of the qualitative study by Maletle (2016), whose study also found the issue of uniform provision. One of the key issues is that the uniforms take a very long time to be replaced, and the sizes are often incorrect; there is a lack of seed production, and garden productivities are challenged by a lack of fertilisers. These issues challenge the effectiveness of the agriculture sector in bringing social change to rural areas. According to the participants, the issue of having to take financial responsibility for the programme to continue negatively impacts their lives. Promises were made when the programme was introduced, and the government seems to have failed to fulfil those promises. Many commented that they contributed to this programme financially because they wanted to please their managers and keep their jobs. If they do not buy the seeds, they will have no garden produce, and their managers will feel they do not want to work. The promise was that at least the seeds would be provided throughout the year, but this is not happening. Surprisingly, in 2024, even at eMaxesibeni, this is a similar issue that the beneficiaries face.

6.2.2 Stipend and lack of employment benefits for CWP beneficiaries

One of the issues the participants complained about was that the stipend was too low. The stipend is less than R1000, and given the economic situation of South Africa in terms of food prices, it is evident that they cannot afford to buy all the essentials and support their children and grandchildren. According to the participants, one of the reasons that the programme is full of older adults is because of the stipend that the youth feels is too low. The salary issue makes it hard for beneficiaries of the programme to afford.

For example, one participant shared as follows:

“The stipend is very lowthe stipend we are getting it is really bad as the stipend is low..... It’s not even close to R1000This is really hindering and makes me suffer as you mentioned that we send children to school it becomes difficult a lot” (Participant 01, July 2023:264).

Others shared that it is insufficient to meet their basic needs and wants. However, most of them are grateful for being part of this programme. Even though the stipend is low, it does make a huge contribution and difference to them and their families, and they wish that the government could somehow increase the stipend or add more working days.

Below is the evidence that the participants appreciate the stipend even though they cannot afford some essentials:

“The stipend is too low ..Yes, the stipend is low but at least we are getting something than not getting something at all”(Participant 06, July 2023:265).

“Our project does come with change as we can buy food as we could not buy food before this project and now we have hope every month. I am not leaving this behind the money must increase as things are expensive, some of us solely depend to CWP stipend. Now you find that, yes it was increased to R960 can they again increase it to R1500 and after that and stop increasing after R1500, food is expensive, we also have kids who are school kids, they need school transport, lunch box and all that depends on us. We request, that the government to assist us and increase the money to at least R1500 and that would be better as things are expensive” (Participant 41, July 2023:).

“Time goes on and prices increasing in stores, yes, we do get assistance but the stipend is not enough. Yes, the project is about us doing things for ourselves and get a stipend it is not easy to survive but were gratefulYes, my sister there is a bit of change and I am able to buy things. Yes, we are better that we are receiving something than nothing”(Participant 17, 2023:).

Despite the issue of receiving low stipends, the participants are pleased that there are no longer any delays in payment dates. At first, the beneficiaries were frustrated that they never had a pay date, and often, their stipend was late with no explanation. However, now things have changed. They are getting their salary for around 25 days monthly without fail. Even though they have stable pay dates, one of the officials was

surprised that most youth would still choose unemployment relief, R350, over the CWP stipend.

The official commented on the improvement of salary to ensure that the beneficiaries have a stable pay date:

“Mmmh the system of salary payments and dates of participants are not stable they change often for example the date for salary payments is 25 of each month but the participants would get it around 26 or later. So there is an issue in payment systems...Maybe the success is that no one has never received his or her salary during month end. Because at first that was happening and some would complain that they did not receive their salary for several months. Now people are getting their money even if they did not receive the money on the actual date.....So they can't stand this. But to my surprise they choose R350 over this R960” (Official 01, July 2023:267).

Most of the participants were very disappointed with their stipend. This may be attributed to their misunderstanding of the programme's purpose, as it is not an official full-employment programme but aims to provide safety-net part-time employment to the beneficiaries who meet the criteria.

Despite the issue of salary dates being solved, there are some issues that the beneficiaries question, such as no leave days or employment insurance. This issue makes them feel like they are not fully part of the programme. They are only receiving UIF, and their leave is unpaid. They also complained about issues where their colleagues contributed to the UIF, which that colleague passed on. Their UIF was never paid to the family even after several visits to the offices. This makes them believe that UIF's contribution is useless. Another issue is that they are not given payslips, which challenges the beneficiaries as they cannot take a personal loan or apply for credit. They go to the loan sharks, where they are charged ridiculous interest and threatened in cases where they fail to honour the payment agreement.

The findings relate to the findings by Malete (2016); Hlatshwayo (2017), who also discussed similar issues of CWP and EPWP beneficiaries complaining about low

stipends and the fact that the government is failing to provide employment benefits such as medical aid and pension fund for the beneficiaries. Dladla and Mutambara (2018); Dladla (2020); Chiloane (2020); Stuart (2022) concur with my findings as they allude to the fact that the PEPs do not offer employment security and the issue of not having payslips causes more financial challenges to the beneficiaries as the beneficiaries resort to loan sharks which they fail to repay.

6.2.3 Training issues and exit programme plans

Having a structured exit plan is important for social change programmes. This programme provides an employment safety net and contributes to the skills development of the beneficiaries (Philip, 2013); DCoG (2018). Training for employability and entrepreneurship skills is said to be provided to the site supervisors and beneficiaries. The training is part of the exit programme plans (Maletse, 2016; Mongale, 2022). However, the findings from eMaxesibeni are contrary to this as many participants denied having received any training related to the programme or training that might assist them in finding future sustainable employment, while others have shared that they have been trained.

“Zabefikile saqeqeshelwa ukuthi sibe nezi skills xakuplastelwa, sifundiswe ukubuya kwenye igam sithathwe sisiwe e town sifundiswe ukulima nangona sekunqabile ngoku but pha ekuqaleni kwe project sasiqeqeshwa. Ezi training zindincedise ekuplasteleni ngoba ngoku kukhona umntu endihamba naye oyi mesilani”. English translation “We were trained for plastering and fencing and some other time we were taken to town to learn about agriculture and gardening, but the training were provided at the beginning of the project not now. The training assisted me as now I am working with someone who is a builder” (Participant 30, July 2023:341)

By creating temporary jobs for the unemployed while providing training on the job and ensuring that workers gain skills that will enable them to be employable in the future (Thwala, 2008). The manual for implementing the programme clearly states that the beneficiaries must be empowered with skills development to ensure that their work is

effective and to contribute to their personal and professional development should some want to exit the programme. The skills development empowers them to be self-reliant and self-sustainable to generate income using the skills acquired (DCoG, 2018).

Most participants said they never received training or a workshop related to their work in the gardens.

“Yhoooo sagqibela kudala hlo, yhooo andisakhumbuli yhoo kwakukudala sikwezo trainings”. English translation “Yhoo we last received them long time ago, I don’t remember, it was a long time ago the last we received the training” (Participant 27, July 2023:341)

To conduct and complete the required work, they depend on their site supervisors and colleagues skilled in agriculture to educate them so they can also learn.

“To tell you the truth ever since I got here we never attended any training. There was never a time when we hear that there is a training. We were employed and started working without any training” (Participant 02, July 2023:265).

”We never attended any training or workshop to educate us, no we never did. What helped me is that I once worked in a farmer where I learnt few skills and how to plant a cabbage and the distance you leave in between your cabbages for better produce but ever since I came here under CWP agriculture sector we were never trained” (Participant 03, July 2023:265)

However, some beneficiaries who started around 2009 to 2012 agreed they received some training, which played an essential role in the garden sites and productivity. Some of their training was saving money, plastering, dealing with pests and insects, and planting different vegetable gardens for good yields. They also shared that, given the limited budget, not all the beneficiaries would attend the training, and only a few were selected. They are frustrated that even though they attended the training, they never received their certificates of attendance, as they would be helpful when applying for other jobs.

Participant 16 alluded on how the training received have helped her.

“Zandineda kuba ndakwaz kwenza isitiya sam endlining ndasebenzisa ezizakhono and andifuni noxoka kuye kwatyeba kahle nyani. English translation “ The training and skills assisted me as I was able to start my own garden at home and there is a big cnage and production” (Participant 16, July 2023:341)

“Igcine kudala into ye training sisi ibigxile kakhulu kwababantu bakaw home based care ibingagxilanga kakhulu kwelethu icala” English translation “ We lant received training long time ago and it focused more on home based care not on our sector” (Participant 18, July 2023:341)

It also becomes apparent that training was only provided when this programme was implemented by a company managed by a Coloured person. After they removed it they never received any further training.

This is the evidence that training was last provided many years ago:

“We received training long time ago I remember it was after I got the job. A Coloured came to us and train us on different agriculture methods and practices and that Coloured would check on us and progress” (Participant 20, July 2023:265).

When the beneficiaries do not receive the promised training, it is difficult to trace the progress and changes made by the programme. Training provides critical skills for the labour market to compete for employment with other candidates or start a business. This implies that there is a lack of exit plans for this programme, and it is failing to deliver the promised change to people. As stated by Shava and Thakhathi (2016), skills development through training plays a vital role in the success of community development programmes; also, the skills provided must align with the programme objectives for sustainability purposes. As Steven (2021) noted, the PWPs are there to ensure they provide the youth with skills. However, they are failing to do so. Provided that this programme is for unskilled people, the government is failing the beneficiaries as the DCoG (2018) reported that one of the main strategies for this

programme is to offer the plan through training. This is because the targeted people are unskilled and have lower education levels, meaning gaining formal employment is highly unlikely. This means that through attending training along with the CWP experience, their chances of obtaining full-time formal employment may increase.

CoGTA and CWP reports are adamant that they are prioritising essential training. However, those who are supposed to receive the training complain that training is limited and no certificates are provided. As Midgley (2014) contends, if the government prioritises the provision of training across its development or livelihood programmes rural people can have an opportunity to contribute to the national economy. Additionally, the CWP promised skills development to ensure the programme reaches its full potential and reduces poverty. For some participants, it provided. It offers skills development in terms of different forms of gardening to beneficiaries to participate in entrepreneurship activities or start their own gardening projects. Skills training is the best thing the programme can offer to the beneficiaries to ensure their lives are changed forever as technical skills and experience do not expire. However, these days even skilled employees have to upskill themselves regularly with the constant changes in technology and modernisation

Some studies, such as Nyoka (2016) and Maletle (2016), state that one of the reasons for limited training and inputs is that the programme has a limited budget to cater for all the required essentials. However, I found contradicting information regarding this issue; as in Alfred Nzo, the interviewed officials shared that the budget is enough; however, it is underused and often sent back because of underspending. This is alarming because so many complaints can be solved using the budget, but the money is often underspent.

An official comment is as follows:

“The challenges that we have is that the budget that we have is not used, for example, the financial year started in April and the year is about to end and we never bought anything but the money is there....It is a must as it goes back. There was never a year where all inputs are bought and nothing is in short or lacking. They are bought but never be enough and they never buy them at all,

obvious the money will go back and obvious the queries will be made for the senior management not us” (Official 01, July 2023:267).

This means that money is available to meet the needs of the beneficiaries and the programme. However, the implementers lack proper planning to use it effectively to sustain the programme.

6.2.4 Extreme weather conditions and insects impact garden productivity

Climate change, such as prolonged drought and rainfall, which often lead to flooding, is a common problem at eMaxesibeni and threatens the efforts of the social change targeted by the programmes. These issues impact the CWP gardens negatively. The heavy rainfall and hail in the summer, according to the participants interviewed, wash away their plants, especially when they are still growing. At the same time, the hail destroys the leaves. On the other hand, the winter comes with dryness and snow, which are unsuitable for the garden's productivity. For example, I conducted most of the field observations during winter, and there was a week when there was snow; most of the gardens were affected, and the beneficiaries, too, were experiencing cold weather. Even the interviewed officials shared that one of the challenges that hindered the agriculture sector and gardens was that eMaxesibeni was one of the dry areas.

Examples of climate change issues were shared as follows:

“We have the drought challenge especially the Mount Ayliff side; that side is very dry and that leads to shortage of water” (Official 01, July 2023:268).

“ Eyona nto inqaba kakhulu ngamanzi, kuba siwakha ekudeni coz ayikho into esingayenza engekho amanzi” English translation “ We have water shortage and we fetch water very far...there is nothing we can do without water” (Participant 19, July 2023:341)

Kukudinga amanzi, siwakha kude, ngengcono ukuba singafunyanelwa I tap ekufutshane enzele sikwaz uthelela zikhule kahle izityala”. English translation “We are fetching water very far so is our garden...it would be better if we would

get a close by tap so that we can water and our plants can grow” (Participant 46, July 2023:346)

The results of the drought are similar to the discussion made in the literature review chapters, as extreme weather conditions such as prolonged dryness affect agriculture. For example, plants do not grow as they usually get burnt and shrink (Amare, 2018; Nhamo et al. (2019(a). On the other hand, similar to Sguazzin (2022), prolonged heavy rainfall is not good for agriculture practices and farming.

Apart from the weather changes, the gardens of eMaxesibeni are challenged by pests. For example, most gardens have “intuku,” which is hard to find and fight as it hides around the garden. According to the participants interviewed, the “intuku”, meaning a burrowing creature such as a mole or earthworm, destroys the roots of the plants, and they see this as the leaves dry out and shrink.

Below are comments made by participants in terms of the “intuku” issue and general pests:

“We plant and we see that our garden is good but then we don’t have a good produce as the Intuku will come and destroy everything from the roots and they shrink” (Participant 39, July 2023:265).

“There are pests and they destroy our vegetables and we do not know what to do. As we are not trained and do not know what might help us”(Participant 02, July 2023:265).

The beneficiaries and supervisors complained that they were told to use traditional methods to deal with this issue. One method is to use samp water, which must come from their household. This is challenging as some do not even cook samp, and some do not stay closer to the garden, where they can just carry the water.

6.3 STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE THE PROGRAMME

There is no challenge without a strategy to address it. The study participants devised different strategies that they believe should be implemented to improve social change, underdevelopment, and the ineffectiveness of the CWP and other rural development programmes.

6.3.1 Effective monitoring and evaluation of the programme

For development programmes to improve and achieve their goals and objectives, monitoring and evaluation are important. Poor monitoring and evaluation are among the issues all participants felt contributed to the programme's poor effectiveness. This issue also leads to beneficiaries' challenges not being heard and addressed as site visits are limited, and there were never site visits to some sites. The officials suggested that at least one or two cars must be stationed at CoGTA, mainly for the CWP. This is where the officials responsible for monitoring the programme can use the cars for site visits and ensure that no site is left behind during monitoring and evaluation. The officials recommend that these site visits must at least be done once or twice a week to monitor and track the progress. In this way, any problem that the beneficiaries have may be addressed immediately. This would also ensure that the officials are not in a hurry, spend time on sites, and not just pass by and miss important information about the programme.

The supervisors also shared that the officials coming often would mean they will not always depend on them to provide updates via pictures for garden sites. The responsible departments must ensure that at least there is transport money for them to rotate around the sites they are supervising. This would help them ensure that all the beneficiaries come to work and do their work daily. This would also help supervisors stop walking long distances and borrowing money for administration.

This challenge below would be addressed:

“I Walk.. They are a bit far from each other for example the and village. ..There are challenges such as having no transport to travel between

villages and forced to walk which is a long distance walk and come back same day. Even when we are submitting documents to the office I must walk or use my money, that is a challenge. In terms of transport I have to plan and use my money or walk ...Even if it is raining you know a job must be done no matter what” [Participant 31 (Site Supervisors), July 2023:265].

Further, they suggested being given the money prior to administration and site visits, and this would assist in addressing the costs that they always face: They sign for the money for site visits, but the amounts they signed for are never received, and when they ask, no one is available to provide truthful answers. This means that they use their own money for site visits and administration purposes even though they were promised that they would be reimbursed.

“Abakafiki bake bazosibheka apho siphangela khona ngokwendawo zethu kuse ngamasupervisor wethu asibhekayo nawo angenachance yokuba makathini kuba izinto zisuka kwabakhulu andithi nabo baphethwe and nathi siphethwe”. English translation “They have never come to our work sites, it is only the supervisors who are coming but they themselves can not do much as orders must come from the big bosses, they also have their own managers same applies to us” (Participant 20, July 2023:341)

Monitoring and evaluating development programmes are significant as they assist in evaluating their impact on the targeted beneficiaries if these programmes are well documented or written down. However, they are often not implemented well, becoming ineffective and failing.

Moreover, the officials and supervisors recommended frequent monitoring and evaluation as essential measures to ensure all the activities are conducted as expected or planned, and issues are addressed as they arise before they escalate on sites. So, they recommend that CoGTA and agriculture conduct frequent, unannounced and planned site visits. Moreover, as it was shared that the eMaxesibeni CWP has no office, they suggested that there should be a longer time or permanent office at eMaxesibeni for administration purposes and an office where the beneficiaries and site supervisors could go to when facing challenges.

6.3.2 Increase of stipends and provision of work outputs and uniform

Most of the interviewed CWP beneficiaries and site supervisors do not understand the nature of their employment and why their stipends are not over R1000 a month. Many participants shared that their stipends contribute to ensuring that they meet their basic needs and wants, but they often struggle to send their children to school and meet the essentials of their households. One of the main strategies they suggested was that even though they know that their nature of employment is not full-time, they would like the stipend to be increased and at least receive R1500 a month. This can be done by revising the CWP implementation policy strategy where their work numbers can be extended to 3 to 4 days or even 5 days a week; in this way, their daily rate can be increased. Moreover, when they work almost 5 days, they can spend more time at work and nurturing their gardens, and productivity can be increased too. Earning above the poverty line is a sign of realising social change, and below the poverty line is a cry for help and intervention.

Participant 02 came up with a solution on how they can obtain better pay:

“One important thing is to extend our working days as we are working 8 days a month. Example if they can give us 12 days or 14 monthly and by doing that the stipend would increase too” (Participant 02, July 2023:266).

Most of the beneficiaries agreed that if they can get an increment, they can contribute more to buying the seeds and hiring a tractor without any limitation, as their stipend is very low now. Nevertheless, they have to buy things like fertilisers and seeds.

Salary play an imperative role in individual lives, and having a salary below the poverty line can be frustrating. Similar to findings by Mongale (2022), the study participants expressed similar sentiments that one of the best strategies to satisfy the CWP beneficiaries is through increasing their working days so that they can get better pay; the EPWP beneficiaries work through weekdays, and this means they are getting higher stipends. This frustrates the CWP beneficiaries as things are very expensive in stores, and they are forced to work only two days a week and 08 days a month. The participants also added that the stipend they are receiving matches the work days,

and due to that, they are also open to working extended days to match their salary increase request.

In addition to the stipend increment strategy, all the participants said that one strategy to improve the programme's progress and contribution is through the effective and timely provision of agriculture sector inputs such as seeds, fertilisers, work equipment and uniforms. The participants said they feel demoralised without work equipment or uniforms. They shared that they would like to be treated like other employees, where their work is secure and dignified. They should be provided with a full uniform, such as PPE and all essential work tools, at least once every two to three years. For those who may lose their uniform or equipment, replace them personally. In this way, many can protect their equipment and uniforms and ensure that they never lose them. Additionally, for sites with much bigger plots and gardens, a tractor must be hired to ensure that the whole garden site is ploughed, and in this way, more produce can be harvested, and poverty can be fought and addressed. For the gardens with poor fencing, the CWP can use its budget to fully finance the fencing so that the livestock find it hard to enter the sites.

During field observation and interviews, it was clear that gardening tools and uniform shortages are prevalent across numerous villages or garden sites. What negatively affects the participants is that they are expected to work and meet their daily responsibilities despite these issues. To address this, one interviewed official suggested that the issues of inputs can be dealt with if the government can limit the budget tightening, and there must be a provincial CoGTA budgeting allocation and not be managed only nationally, as the provinces are the ones who understand what is needed urgently. However, this contradicts another official's statement that the budget is always available and underused despite the programme facing challenges that can be used through the underused budget.

Some CWP communal sites face the issue of having their garden produce exposed to theft. This often occurs during the night when everyone has left the site. This is where the beneficiaries and site supervisors suggested that the garden sites that are exposed

to theft and have good productivity can be secure at night to protect the garden from theft.

6.3.3 Sustainable exit plans and training

Several CWP beneficiaries and site supervisors complained that training and workshops are limited and that those who attend the training are chosen. This means that not all supervisors and beneficiaries have attended the training or workshops. The CWP policy stresses that one of the critical exit plans to ensure the employability of the beneficiaries is through sustainable accredited training provision. Given that, it is evident that the CWP agriculture sector is dominated by the elderly compared to the youth. One of the best strategies that the officials and other participants share is that the programme would attract more youth through providing youth agriculture training and mentorship. Once they have completed the training, they can receive the certificates, and those with grade 12 can be mentored and trained in agriculture leadership to polish their agriculture skills. Through such training, the youth can be employable and have something to fall back on should they want to leave the programme.

Participant 11 motivated how the training can be of benefit to the beneficiaries and the youth:

“They must come and train us themselves. This can better our progress and give us motivation especially us the youth to even share at home about the trainings that are provided. They can be beneficial that we will know that we have a skill that we can use. This can also attract people to come and buy and there will be more motivation from us to keep pushing and love our job” (Participant 11, July 2023:263).

“Sagqibela sisasando qeshwa ukuqeqeshwa, kukhona I khaladi esasisibenza nalo elalisibonisa ukuthi kwenziwa kanjani, lalisinakekele ngoku sasisaphethwe yila khampany yakuqala wayesithi funeka sense kanje, sityale kanje. Abalungisa umgwaqo mabenze kanje, abakwa construction kanje ngoku asisaqeqeshwa”. English translation “ The training that were provided were

when we were still new in this programme, there was a colored who worked with us showing us how to do things and plant. The coloured took care of us and it was during the time when we were still managed by the first company, showing us how to plant, and showing those in roads manitanance and construction on how to do things but now we no longer trained” (Participant 20, July 2023:342)

This means that apart from training to be a sustainable exit strategy, it can foster the achievement of the programme activities and overall objectives, as the beneficiaries can perform their daily activities accurately and effectively through several skills gained through training. Similar findings by Mongale (2022) concur that training can be an answer to youth sustainable skills development and foster employability and entrepreneurship skills, which can significantly positively contribute to reducing poverty and unemployment.

“Nokufumana iitrainings yinto engasiphucula noko, futhi ke xasi trainway kungathathwa umntu omnye kuphume noba babini ukuze nifundisane” English translation “ To be offered trainings can really improve us and not to have one person selected for the trainings but at least tow so that we can teach each other” (Participant 18, July 2023:342)

To achieve this, a positive collaboration through different partnerships, such as government stakeholders, departments and the private sector, can serve as an opportunity to improve skills and exit plans opportunities.

Collaboration is considered a sustainable source of skills development and exit strategy. Lastly, these exit plans can also include in-service training, leadership, internships and recommendations through stakeholders' relations, which are offered to allow beneficiaries and site supervisors to obtain employment outside the CWP and participate in income-generating initiatives and programmes. Additionally, Qengqa and Ndaguba's (2018) and Steven's (2021) findings allude to the fact that the exit programme plans can offer skills as solutions for the beneficiaries to become independent and self-reliant to fight their absolute poverty and inequality.

6.4 CHAPTER SUMMARY

It is clear from the findings and interpretation that the CWP agriculture programme is positively changing lives and serves as a vehicle for positive, impactful rural livelihood around eMaxesibeni villages. It does not only benefit the beneficiaries and supervisors but also the vulnerable groups, as they gain from the CWP communal garden. Evidently, most participants lived a life of poverty before CWP and could not afford many of the basic needs and wants. This means the introduction of CWP at eMaxesibeni and the resultant stipend have brought light to several CWP beneficiaries, who are now homeowners and can send their children to school. However, participants from eMaxesibeni CWP shared several challenges that hinder the programme's progress, such as lack of work materials, uniforms, exit plans, poor monitoring and evaluation, land availability issues, corruption during recruitment, climate change and pests. From the challenges and issues raised by the participants, they also recommended different solutions to solve or minimise the problems experienced. It is evident that the CWP has improved people's lives through food gardens, but such food gardens have not yet provided fully sufficient social change and rural development across many communities. Perhaps new forms of social change and rural development must be introduced that speak to the vast majority of rural people.

Chapter Seven, the final chapter of the study, summarises the main findings, how the objectives were met, the conclusions of the study findings, recommendations and limitations.

CHAPTER SEVEN

SUMMARY OF MAIN FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 INTRODUCTION

The previous chapter delves into the main study findings, focusing on primary data and the data from archives. The participants' experiences and views of the programme are also critically discussed, with support from the literature review. This final chapter focuses on wrapping up the whole research. From my findings, it has been proved that the CWP agriculture sector has brought some social change to the homestead and communal projects used to fight hunger and poverty in the former Homelands. These gardening projects have taught the beneficiaries agriculture skills, which may contribute to their job hunting and entrepreneurship. Even though the government does not support the different gardens well with regard to inputs and essential equipment, the beneficiaries and the supervisors have taken ownership of these projects and have invested in their progress as they use their stipend to ensure their productivity and success. Regarding monitoring and evaluation, it is evident that the garden sites are not well monitored and evaluated. Due to this issue, the programme seemed to be somewhat ineffective, as the Department or officials who are tasked to monitor and evaluate the programme have failed to do so, and this implies they are not fully aware of the site or village progress or the beneficiaries' and supervisors' challenges. Poor monitoring and evaluation are further hampered by poor infrastructure and the unavailability of transport to the sites.

Vusi Thebe, Gary Minkley, and Kate Philip form part of the key text that the thesis argues and relates. Sibanda and Thebe (2022) argue for redesigning the EPWP as they consider that the current design and implementation plan fails to address the ticking time bomb of youth unemployment. This is similar to my CWP argument that CWP implementation or design needs to be reworked, and ways must be found to hold the local government accountable for poor implementation and failure to improve social change. Additionally, Thebe (2017) also argues for land accessibility, as without

authorised land, people cannot practise agriculture effectively. Additionally, Gary Minkley views the social change of the Eastern Cape as being too slow and several development programmes as failures in bringing about rural livelihood. However, Minkley does not mean there is no social change happening; rather, the rural development in terms of social change is too low, and people are disappointed and feel let down by the local government. These arguments make me question the realisation of social change and community development through CWP agriculture. I believe that re-contextualisation of rural development and social change by the local government, rural development scholars and development strategies is imperative for rural livelihood and community development.

Arguably, land is one of the valuable resources that can provide social change to rural people in the Eastern Cape. Agricultural support, improving land access for communities, and ensuring that basic welfare services are provided in impoverished rural areas are significant and can transform communities and rural livelihoods. However, the land reform failed to address the rural development issues and bring social change to impoverished communities, such as eradicating poverty and hunger. One of the causes of this failure is poor rural development and programme design and implementation, failure of local government, and the remoteness of rural communities from the central administration (Bank & Minkley, 2005).

7.2 SUMMARY OF MAIN FINDINGS BASED ON SECONDARY AND PRIMARY DATA

Evidence from both the primary and secondary data, determined that several programmes and projects promised people social change and rural development. Chapter two, which is about the theoretical and conceptual framework, shows that these development programmes are implemented differently in our communities. For example, the CWP is said to be community participation oriented. It follows the ABCD and participatory approaches model, in which the community defines its own needs and becomes an active participant in project implementation. The projects focus not

only on needs but also on community resources and assets that can be used to improve rural people's livelihoods. For instance, in terms of the CWP gardens, the community members use what they have, which is the arable land, communal land sites and school gardens, to grow vegetables and crops. This implies that they use what they have as a community to escape from absolute poverty.

The study also revealed that without the active participation of the community members, community leadership and local governance, the CWP and other community-based programmes would have failed dismally. Chapter Two of the study alluded to the community development theories that can make or break rural development. The social change theories signify that many issues can affect the realisation of development and public participation in programme implementation. This can assist in ensuring that the general public voices are heard and their needs are addressed. Arguably, the service delivery and social change programmes do not mean handouts for communities but empowerment through skills development. The study found that the development practitioners implementing the social change and development programmes are not well trained in project management and programme implementation as they tend to create over-dependency on governance, and this often leads to the failure of the programmes, as the people who are targeted fail to take ownership of it when the implementers leave. This means that social change does not mean heavy reliance on government but being able to also do things for yourself such as using your skills and talents to remove yourself from unemployment and poverty by starting a business.

The literature review (see chapter three) reveal that the government makes promises, and fails to keep them later, often leading to service delivery conflict. For example, when the programme started, the beneficiaries were promised work equipment, uniforms and seeds. Nevertheless, the government has failed to deliver the promised services and the services such as water and infrastructure is still a challenge (Kuta, 2022). The CWP beneficiaries and site supervisors are not well supported. This involves the CWP agriculture and all sectors, such as construction and home-based care. Another main challenge in terms of poor service delivery is the fact that the

beneficiaries have to work using their own clothing, tools and stipend to ensure that their work is done, as they are afraid to lose their jobs should they stop working due to issues of not having the proper PPE and inputs, and this is critically discussed across all the study chapters. Moreover, this shows that the government has failed to adhere to the labour laws and protect the employees of the CWP in terms of the Health and Security Act, as this Act clearly states that employees working in dangerous environments and using dangerous equipment must be provided with PPE. This contradicts the CWP policy document as it states that all the inputs and PPE will be provided.

Regarding the CWP implementation and recruitment of the beneficiaries, I found that most CWP sites were poor and deserving of the programme, even though during the interviews, it came to the fore that some beneficiaries' employment was politically related. According to the CSVR CWP policy brief 1, the CWP policy guideline is that the CWP site must be located in disadvantaged rural areas where people live in absolute poverty and have very high unemployment.

Findings in chapters Four and Seven confirm that there was some corruption during the implementation of CWP as not all the recruited beneficiaries met the criteria, which means corruption hinders the successful implementation of this programme and impacts its objective. Additionally, chapters Four and Seven findings reveal that the majority of the participants are females compared to males, and this is one of the strategies for gender equality where women are also provided with an opportunity to participate in economic growth activities and programmes through employment opportunities where they gain financial freedom (Phillip, 2013).

Findings in chapters Three, Four and Six show that the implementation of the CWP agriculture sector, in terms of gardens, involves ward committees, councillors, and the LED department (Kobedi et al., 2022; Mokoto et al., 2023). Ward committees are active during the implementation and selection of the CWP agriculture sector. The literature chapters agree that the councillors and ward committees actively identify the CWP garden sites. However, participants have different views; for example, some shared that their ward committees identified their working garden sites. In some sites,

the beneficiaries and the site supervisors identified their garden sites. This implies that in some areas, the ward committees are not active in the implementation of the programme, and that is why there are areas or villages with no CWP agriculture garden sites.

Another major issue I found was that the eMaxesibeni CWP garden sites are not treated the same, as discussed in Chapter Seven. For example, the sites closer to the main eMaxesibeni administration offices in town are doing better than those in very remote areas, and this goes back to the poor infrastructure issues that make it difficult for the CoGTA officials to conduct regular site visits. Failure to conduct monitoring and evaluation, as agreed upon, leads to the failure of many government initiatives and programmes. Additionally, the literature review chapters stressed the importance of monitoring and evaluating the projects to ensure their progress and addressing beneficiary challenges that may arise as soon as they occur (Shava & Thakhathi, 2016).

To bring the desired social change and ensure the positive impact of the rural development programmes, it is shown in chapters Three and Seven that the government must prioritise the monitoring and evaluation strategies and, in this way, there can be ownership of the programme. Additionally, proper reporting is needed for CWP to make effective decisions and plans. Most importantly, investment in infrastructure is required in rural areas so that it is easy for the officials to travel across the sites. However, I found other issues that impact the CWP agriculture sector in ensuring effective rural development: land availability and climate change.

Across the study chapters, I have critically argued and stressed the importance of having access to fertile land to fight poverty in rural areas. Land is one of the significant resources one can use to make a living in a former Homeland. Chapters One and Three explicitly reveal how Black Africans lost their land to the apartheid government. Even after South Africa gained its dependency, the land reform policies were slow and ineffective as most land claims had not yet been resolved (Mokwena & Maluleke, 2020). Sikwela et al.(2018) support the view that the main economic activity in rural areas is through agricultural practices; however, with the continuing issue of land, the

rural development programmes achieve slow progress, and their effectiveness depends on the government rectifying the land issue.

Primary data findings suggest that land availability regarding fertility is lacking at eMaxesibeni. For example, participants verbalised that pest invasions challenge the available land they use for CWP gardens. The land is also arid, and there is very scarce water for irrigation. It is difficult for them to bring water from their houses as there is also no water for domestic purposes. The result is very limited CWP sites with fertile land and a water supply. This implies that when the government designs these programmes, it must also assess the programme's suitability to ensure that if there is agricultural practice, it will succeed, given the scenario of land availability in rural areas and extreme weather conditions. They must also look for alternatives to ensure the programme's effectiveness despite the mentioned challenges.

Chapters Three and Six findings stress that, even though it is well-known that in rural areas such as eMaxesibeni, their main economic activity is agriculture, this becomes an issue as there are worrying climate change issues. Extreme weather conditions affect agriculture productivity regarding crops, vegetables and livestock; water supply is negatively affected by those conditions. These issues then lead to an increase in food insecurity, and poverty and health are also impacted negatively because of extreme weather stressors (File & Derbile, 2020). As discussed in chapters Three and Five and Six, these conditions become so adverse that they endanger people's lives in rural areas; for example, the hail, snow, high temperatures and heavy rainfall lead to crop yield drops; these climate change issues are also life-threatening.

Heavy summer rainfall has negatively affected the CWP agriculture sector; the weeds grow aggressively, increasing pests and bugs that destroy the already planted crops and vegetables, meaning that during flooding, productivity is reduced as most of the vegetables are washed away and this means the hard work of the CWP beneficiaries goes down the drain (Nhamo et al., 2019 (b)). I also discovered that climate change is challenging for the CWP beneficiaries as they work outdoors with no shelter and no proper season uniform, such as raincoats or summer hats, to protect themselves from rain and high temperatures. It becomes very dry in the winter at eMaxesibeni, and the

dams, community taps, water tanks, and even their gardens dry out. In summer, prolonged rainfalls become so heavy that they destroy the CPW gardens. However, there is also a beneficial side to this programme regarding its positive impact on rural livelihood and the change it has brought to the community and beneficiaries.

Additionally, I found that CWP offers limited training development programmes where the beneficiaries are equipped with relevant gardening skills for the labour market. These skills play an important role when the beneficiaries exit the programme or want to pursue the world of entrepreneurship. Another positive aspect that emerged, as discussed in Chapter Seven, was that the participants showed appreciation for receiving their monthly stipend. The stipend has contributed significantly to their lives as they can now build homes and send their children to school, university, or other higher learning institutions. , Some participants noted that one of the training workshops they attended was about using and saving money. This means that even though the stipend is too low, they can manage it. However, a few individuals mentioned that they suffer despite a monthly stipend, so they ask for a raise, as food and other essentials have become expensive.

It is apparent that the programme not only brings change to the lives of its beneficiaries but also contributes to the overall community development, as the gardens are poverty solutions from which community members also benefit. For example, community members are not forced to go to supermarkets for vegetables as they now buy vegetables from the CWP gardens at an affordable price. The selling of the produce also boosts the beneficiaries and supervisors as they use the money to buy more seeds and other required garden essentials in addition to using the money to solve their financial problems. Additionally, the gardens make a significant contribution to vulnerable groups such as the elderly, people living with disabilities and child-headed homes. Overall, this programme has contributed significantly to the lives of rural communities as they are now equipped with gardening skills. Some beneficiaries have started small gardens and can sell and supplement their CWP stipend. This implies that this programme encourages and contributes to economic and social inclusion and

prepares people to use their skills and available resources to meet their basic needs (CoGTA, 2019).

Chapters Three, Six and Seven vividly stress that the CWP has provided employment opportunities for the unemployed and qualifying individuals; rural lives are gradually changing as social change is gradual. Food security can be improved provided this programme prioritises technical, generic and gardening skills training. Moreover, I found that CWP has brought hope to the hopeless and some change in rural development in former Homelands where this programme has been implemented. Participants shared that before this programme, they never knew the value and benefits of agriculture and food production. However, now they know they can grow their food and have their vegetable gardens to feed themselves and the community, including supporting the elderly and schools. Thus, vegetable gardens have made a significant contribution to eliminating food insecurity.

However, one of the major threats is that it is evident in multiple chapters that there are no effective and proper exit plans or strategies for CWP beneficiaries, as the training is minimal. Not all beneficiaries can attend the offered training. Even those who participated in some training shared that they never received their certificates of attendance. Without proof of attendance, they cannot add to their Curriculum Vitae (CV) that they have the training. This hinders their job hunting.

Several strategies have been proposed to ensure that the programme contributes to sustainable livelihood, fights poverty and brings the promised social change. One of the main strategies was the proposal to extend the work days of the beneficiaries so that their salaries could increase, as well as the provision of agriculture inputs and PPE. Additionally, some suggested that the government must start giving them payslips so that they can be able to buy things on credit, as the refusal of payslips exposes them to danger, such as having to go to illegal loan sharks where they are ridiculously overcharged in terms of interest. They are also forced to leave their bank cards and Identity Documents (IDs) with loan sharks in exchange for money.

7.3 ADDRESSING OF RESEARCH QUESTION AND SUB-QUESTIONS

In this research, I sought to address the following questions;

Main Research Question

How do CWP homesteads and communal gardens contribute to social change in the Eastern Cape, eMaxesibeni under Alfred Nzo District, and what are the successes and challenges of the CWP agriculture sector in bringing about social change and sustainable development?

Research sub-questions

- What are the inherited legacies of underdevelopment from the apartheid era, pre-1994?
- How effective are social change projects in the rural development of eMaxesibeni Alfred Nzo?
- How does the CWP agriculture sector address issues of poverty and unemployment in Alfred Nzo eMaxesibeni?
- What are the recruitment, monitoring and evaluation processes implemented by the CWP agriculture sector within Alfred Nzo?

For research question One research question was entirely answered by the literature review chapter and primary findings. I explicitly highlighted the apartheid legacy that the country is confronted with, which includes a lack of fertile land, poverty issues, youth unemployment and unequal distribution of opportunities between rural and urban areas, which causes urbanisation by youth. The research participants complained about poor service delivery, housing, and water issues in their village. From the literature review and critical study findings, it is evident that the government did try to fight the socio-economic impact of apartheid. However, there is still a long way to eradicate them all successfully. It is evident that apartheid played a huge role in the social ills and social change challenges that many rural areas in the Eastern Cape currently face. However, it is alarming that after 30 years of democracy, the

Eastern Cape social change is taking place at a very slow pace despite numerous rural development programmes.

Regarding research question Two, it is revealed that there are mixed findings on the effectiveness of rural development projects in bringing social change. There are contradictory findings in terms of literature reviewed and primary findings, as some believed that the development of rural programmes and projects has brought the promised social change and improvement of rural livelihood, as people now receive stipends and have learnt agriculture skills to start their gardens so that they can be able to feed their households. The stipends are also effective in fighting food insecurity and hunger. However, some participants alluded to the stipends being below the poverty line, making it difficult for them to improve their lives. There are also corruption activities during the implementation of the programmes, such as lack of transparency and maladministration activities by government officials. Without addressing the challenges that hinder the rural development programmes, the programmes are likely to fail to address the socio-economic issues.

Research question Three concerns how CWP addresses poverty and unemployment issues in agriculture. The findings revealed that poverty and unemployment are still issues at eMaxesibeni. The youth migrate to urban areas for better livelihoods for themselves and their families. Adults dominate the programme, and it has few youth groups. The participants complained that recruiting new beneficiaries is very slow, and there are garden sites with just five beneficiaries. This means the employment process is ineffective. However, those benefiting from the CWP commend it for improving their lives, as now the beneficiaries can bring food to the table through their different garden sites. The poor and vulnerable groups now have access to nutritious food from CWP gardens, and even students from school now eat balanced and nutritious food. However, the programme implementors should improve their monitoring of the projects and ensure that the site supervisors are not overworked and they are supported.

Regarding the recruitment, monitoring, and evaluation of the programme question which is question Four, it is evident from the literature and findings that the recruitment of the CWP beneficiaries is not transparent or without corruption, as some were recruited only because of ANC affiliation. The implementing departments have failed to ensure the successful monitoring and evaluation of the programme and projects, as there are very limited field visits or site visits by the relevant government officials. The availability of transpots for site visits is also a hindrance. The officials complained that no cars are meant for this project and even offices for administration purposes. This, therefore, means the officials are not fully aware of what is working and not working for the programme and have no understanding of the challenges experienced by beneficiaries and different garden sites. The study also devised several strategies to improve the programme, such as professional development of beneficiaries and site supervisors, such as offering training such as gardening, CV writing, employment application submissions and other labour-related skills.

7.4 STUDY LIMITATIONS

- The primary data collected was based on a limited sample: CWP beneficiaries and site supervisors at eMaxesibeni. However, to broaden the scope and to ensure that the data collected is not biased and is transferable, the implementing officials of the CWP conducted an extensive review of the CWP reports conducted, and I provided this description of the sample to ensure the trustworthiness, and credibility of the methods and findings.
- Funding delayed the progress of the research and the recruitment of the participants. I had to put on hold some interviews while organizing money for data collection. Funding issues meant I could not finish within the year I intended to. However, my friends, family, and volunteers supported me until I got funding in 2024.

- Another limitation was that the participants thought I came to solve all their problems and that I was part of the implementers. However, after spending time with them, interacting with them, and explaining my role and the purpose of the study using the local language, they eventually understood my task.
- Even though the researcher outlined how data was collected from different sources such as interviews, field observations and archives, I have different experiences, and there are lessons learnt. It was challenging to access field sites and reviewing of archives as a large volume of data was collected and it was challenging to make sense of it. Yes, the thematic analysis method speaks of reducing large amounts of data into meaningful data, and there are several steps to follow. However, I learned that research is not linear and unpredictable issues may arise during fieldwork. For example, one can interview schedule, which qualitative scholars deem to guide the direction of the interviews and field observation to ensure that the shared information speaks to the research objectives the research seeks to address. However, in my case, there were times when the interview schedule could not help or stop participants from rambling or diverting from the questions, making my interviews challenging. However, I tried to use the reflecting on content questions to draw the participants back to the main question. This indicates that fieldwork can be unpredictable, and the researcher must always be prepared for possible problems. Additionally, using three data collection assisted me a lot; for example, during interviews, I would ask questions that arose when I was reviewing reports to get more clarification, and I could compare what was happening on the ground and what the documents were saying. Using three data sources meant that I was required to spend more time collecting data, and I had to be prepared financially as this process was expensive. There was a challenge in maintaining a balance between the three methods of data collection. However, I ensured that I was comfortable in using the three sources, and this assisted a lot for triangulation purposes. Lastly, conflicting data was considered too from across the three data sources.

7.5 RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON FINDINGS

Participation of the youth in this programme is minimal. The youth do not see much of this programme's social change and development, and even the stipend is unattractive. Promoting this programme to the youth is essential as the youth are the future, and the programme, having more elderly compared to youth, is not attractive. Therefore, it is recommended that the CWP policy be amended by discussing different ways that the programme can be beneficial to the rural youth and include aspects like youth capacity building or training in terms of agricultural practices where they can obtain accredited certificates of training attendance and also offer training in CV presentation. This is where the policy could partner with the private sector and other government departments to ensure that the training is offered effectively. Additionally, for effective capacity building, the programme budget should be distributed provincially, and each province could then account for its spending and activities to promote the professional development and employability of the beneficiaries.

Based on the findings, one of the major issues was the poor provision of agricultural inputs and uniforms, which challenged progress in the programme's success. To address this issue, I recommend that CoGTA, as the implementer, should collaborate with DRDAR and the LED departments within the municipalities, as these departments can work together to ensure that the inputs are provided. The available LED small businesses supply the uniform, seeds, and fencing; others sew the uniform and provide PPE. One of the challenges found was monitoring and evaluating the programme. I recommend that the CoGTA have a suitable vehicle specifically for the site visits, considering the deplorable state of roads in rural areas.

7.6 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

One of the issues this study failed to explore was the importance of collaboration between the private and public sectors, specifically the CWP, to ensure that the training provided for the CWP beneficiaries is labour market-related. Future research

can focus on the collaboration between the public and private sectors to ensure the CWP beneficiaries' employability and the development of entrepreneurship skills to fight unemployment and rural poverty. This partnership would ensure that the beneficiaries are employable, should they wish to leave the programme, and that private and public sector institutions can absorb them for specific projects as they would have the required work experience, skills and training.

This study has critically discussed the CWP's contribution to social change and rural development in terms of poverty alleviation. I mainly focused on the CWP agriculture sector, specifically its homestead and communal gardens at eMaxesibeni under Alfred Nzo. Therefore, it would be necessary to conduct a follow-up study where all three CWP sectors, construction, home-based care, and agriculture, are explored in terms of their contribution across all ten former Homelands. Additionally, I did not consider the beneficiaries' education level, which is essential as education plays a role in the labour market. Therefore, conducting a survey that will include the educational level of the beneficiaries would be beneficial, as it will inform stakeholders of the academic level of the beneficiaries across provinces, and this would assist in organising labour market-related training, should this programme be redesigned.

7.7 CLOSING DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

This thesis focuses on the social change and community works of eMaxesibe Alfred Nzo through the lens of the CWP agriculture sector. As government development strategist Kate Philip alluded to, CWP seeks to improve previously disadvantaged rural areas through community work. However, I found that implementing this programme to improve rural livelihood is faced with many challenges, and the youth are not fully attracted to the programme despite having an alarming number of unemployed youth in the Eastern Cape and Alfred Nzo district. Due to the complexity of this programme, it remains paramount and critical to re-evaluate the programme's implementation and design for youth participation. Sibanda and Thebe (2022), a development studies scholar who has studied a similar programme, EPWP, saw the need to redesign

EPWP, considering the ticking time bomb of youth unemployment. building on their findings in terms of CWP, as the findings reveal that the programme is full of older people and far fewer youth, and this is very worrying as the youth require experience and skills from this programme to participate in the labour market and must learn the importance of agriculture sector and community work for their livelihood.

Unfortunately, the youth do not see the importance of agriculture as an employment opportunity and means to fight hunger. Nevertheless, the youth cannot be blamed as the government has failed to introduce and foster initiatives promoting youth in agriculture. CWP is a glaring example of government failure. Land is another significant factor in agricultural prosperity. I concur with Thebe (2018), who stressed that land is a highly valued asset for agriculture practices. Moreover, I have discovered that for CWP communal and homestead gardens, the land is a basic, essential resource and method for rural livelihood, food security, overall social change, and rural development of former Homelands. Yes, there is some available land in eMaxesibeni, but the local government owns the land, and unfortunately, such land cannot be used for agriculture or CWP gardens without permission. Thebe (2017) pointed out that it is a mistake for rural communities to use unauthorised land. This criticises and argues that the red tape in acquiring land is also a leading cause of prevention of former Homelands' rural development and livelihood.

In 30 years of democracy, the Eastern Cape and eMaxesibeni villages face underdevelopment despite having land reform policies. The introduction of CWP in 2008 could have been an important initiative by the local government for mass youth participation in social change and agriculture promotion participation. However, they failed to do so, and one of the failures is the programme's lack of professional development opportunities in terms of training and proper exit strategies, such as full employment for CWP beneficiaries or entrepreneurship support initiatives for those who aspire to be self-employed.

I argue that the programme has provided slow-paced social change to the lives of the beneficiaries and the community by reducing hunger, poverty and unemployment issues. A major strategy to empower the beneficiaries is to provide training, hands-on

job experience and skills when they exit the programme. This programme lacks accredited training workshops. I believe that through labour-related and agriculture training as an exit strategy, the programme participants may see their future thriving beyond the programme. CoGTA funding also does not support or encourage those who want to study agriculture as a formal qualification.

All these issues signify poor planning, poor implementation and poor long-term outcomes of the programme. This is why unemployment and small progress in social change and development remain cases of concern in the former Homelands. In terms of my findings, I concur with Philip (2013) that this programme has no economic opportunity alternatives for its beneficiaries. Its design or implementation plan does not allow forced exit of beneficiaries, as the fear is that should force exit be imposed, the beneficiaries are likely to go back to poverty, and no formal employment is guaranteed. I also do not believe in forced exit. However, the implementation plan fails to come up with economic activities to encourage and keep the beneficiaries motivated and skilled in terms of the job market. A more job market CWP implementation plan is recommended to facilitate rural social change or encourage more youth and economically active people to join. Currently there is no career or professional development for the youth, and they are not encouraged to join as they know that they will not grow professionally as they will not be assisted in finding formal employment.

I have focused on CWP food gardens, including the gardens located in schools to assist learners' nutrition. Philip (2013) highlights that introducing CWP school gardens has improved the nutritional value of the food eaten by learners, and sustainable food provision for learners and vulnerable people has been achieved. I concur with this; however, I found that the CWP school gardens suffer during school holidays as the CWP beneficiaries are prohibited from accessing and maintaining the gardens during the holiday period. For longer holidays, the garden vegetables die, and the hard work of the CWP goes down the drain, and they have to rework from scratch. Therefore, it is essential to think about such issues when implementing the communal gardens of CWP projects, as there are red taps or challenges in some CWP public sites, such as

schools, and there are rules that may hinder the goal and CWP progress toward social change and rural development.

My findings concur with Kate Philip's view of CWP gardens providing food security for the beneficiaries and the vulnerable; however, I found some contrasting findings regarding the food surplus produced by CWP gardens. Philip (2013) and I found that some sites sell surplus vegetables produced; however, CWP gardens are not designed to operate as trading entities, meaning they are prohibited from selling. I cannot entirely agree with this, as many issues have led to the beneficiaries selling the surplus, including the non-provision of seeds, pesticides, fertilisers and working tools. This means they are forced to sell to have the money to buy what they need for their garden sites, and should they wait for those resources, they will never work as the implementing departments have failed to provide materials and resources for their garden sites.

According to this thesis, selling the surplus must not be prohibited as the gardens are likely to fail, and people will return to devastating poverty because the government is not fulfilling its role for input provision. However, to manage this, they should redesign and state different ways to control sales and how money is used for the programme. For example, how much each site should produce to sell and how often the tools and inputs must be bought using the money from selling. The money would also help the site supervisors with their transport and admin work as they are not provided with that. The infrastructure issues also hinder the progress of rural development programmes for former Homelands.

Truscott, Pohlandt-McCormick and Minkley (2022) observe that the Eastern Cape infrastructure is decaying; I agree with their observation as the infrastructure has collapsed in most Eastern Cape areas and old unsafe bridges are used (see newspaper articles by Dayimani, 2022; Mack, 2022; Mpini, 2023). This shows that rural development, as stated by Bank and Minkley (2005); Zantsi and Bester (2019), is deplorable, social change in physical features is very poor, and field cultivation is mainly neglected in most rural areas. This goes back to the issue of agricultural practices not being popularised and causing the poor state of CWP homesteads and

communal gardens. This is worsened by rural-urban migration as youth leave former underdeveloped Homelands for cities for better opportunities, leaving behind the elderly to participate in rural development programmes (including CWP). Nevertheless, even though Gary Minkley sees Eastern Cape rural development as being behind, he acknowledges the slow social change happening, such as the suburban-style housing developments. I concur that the youth or economically active people who have left former Homelands for urban areas have not abandoned their roots. However, this does not mean the local government must not address the poorly designed and implemented rural development programmes for youth attraction and improving rural areas such as eMaxesibeni Alfred Nzo district.

The CWP has brought some social change to some beneficiaries. However, the lack of materials and input (seeds, fertilisers, fencing) support as stipulated in the implementation plan has left more hunger and poverty to some of the beneficiaries; the government has failed to support the progress of the gardens as most sites use their stipend to buy seeds and fertilisers and even when the local government decides to provide the inputs the seeds often arrive rotten, but the programme has a sufficient budget. The beneficiaries and site supervisors have been promised resources and even signed for transport money, but those promises have not been fulfilled. It can be concluded that despite hiring many beneficiaries for this programme and the introduction of gardens, there is no significant positive change in rural livelihood opportunities as more poverty and hunger issues are reported, and unemployment is growing annually. This is causing dissatisfaction and criticism of the local government.

It is suggested the CWP agriculture sector design and implementation plan should be re-designed to attract the youth and provide them with economic growth opportunities, as they are part of the country's future, and to keep them encouraged and able to recognise the significance of agriculture. With the proper promotion of agriculture as a means to end poverty, SDGs 1 and 2 can be reached before 2030; the youth would learn to use the available land to grow their food and maintain their livelihood, and the rural people would be able to recover their dignity and self-respect (Bank & Minkley, 2005). I argue that the CWP agriculture sector has not achieved this, and very slow

social change and community work have been achieved, leading to low success stories and poverty eradication issues. Also, rural development and community work aim to bring social welfare and fight poverty, inequality, and rural livelihoods through sustainable community development initiatives or programmes. Therefore, it is essential to conduct community engagement in evaluating and assessing the appropriateness and sustainability of programmes for rural communities.

As recommended by Sibanda and Thebe (2022), I agree that the local government must understand that the rural former Homelands have unique challenges, and the introduced programmes must not have a uniform implementation design and approach, meaning the uniqueness of challenges must be prioritised. The local government programmes and initiatives must prioritise sustainability and long-term outcomes of rural poverty when addressing the rural community's social change and development of former Homelands. New forms of social change and rural development for the implementation of rural livelihood programmes are required to ensure the transformation of former Homelands, as it appears that the current rural development practices and methods are not effective.

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INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPTS SOURCES

Participant 20. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “Abantwana bafundile imisebenzi inqabile”. English translation “Kids are educated but there are no jobs”.

Participant 16. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “linkonzo azisigculisi kuba izinto esizifunayo azifumaneki, namanzi siyawadinga awafumaneki, imigwaaqo oko yayenziwe ngoku iyamoshakala” translated to “We are not satisfied with service delivery as our needs are not addressed, we have no water, there is very poor infrastructure such as road. The road was constructed a long time ago and now is in bad condition”.

Participant 19. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “Imigwaaqo asiyiboni ilungiswa, yonke into ihamba kakubi kunethe neemvuma, imigwaaqo ayilungiswa” English translation “The roads are not fixed even during rainy season”.

Participant 08. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “Ibuthsintshile bona, ngoba bendihleli ndingena income, so ngoku ndiyayazi nge 25 ndiyafumana.....translated to “It changed my life, as I had no income before, but now I know I will receive the stipend on the 25th”.

Participant 29. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “Siyakwazi ulima sifike siphekele abantu abadala..sibaphekele isigwampa”. English translation “We plant and use the produce to go to elderly homes and cook traditional food for them”.

Participant 19. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “Kuhlalehlale kuqeshwe, umntu oke wengezwa ongathi uyiwani apha kuthi”. English translation “They take long time to hire more people, only one person was added on our group”.

Participant 27. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “Mmmh....Zayibeka kanjani...ewe iqesha kakuhle noba ke kusuke zikhona izikhalo apho kukhona umntu, okanye athi omnye bendiyile mna kutheni kwazoqeshwa wena kanti kujongwe nesimo sakho”. English translation “MMmh, how am I going to put this..yes it does employ people fairly even though there are complaints where there are people, as someone

would say I did go but why they hired you instead not knowing that they also check circumstances of an individual”.

Participant 16. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “Iyayilwa indlala kakhulu xasithe sangaphazanyiswa zizinambuzane”. Translated to “ Gardens fight poverty especially if there are no inserts”.

Participant 27. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “Lonto incinci ike indincedise phaya naphaya...nokuthi kwenzeke sityale uyakwazi uphuma nento yokuncedisa emndenini”. English translation “The money I am receiving even though it is not enough but it assist there and there. Also garden produce do assist us in helping and feeding our families”.

Participant 32 (Site supervisor). Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “Asinanto zokusebenza ne seeds”. English translation “We do not have work tools and seeds”.

Participant 17. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “Into esiyikhalazela kakhulu yimbewu ne unifum into ezifana namaquze okusebenza azikho kakuhle....aiskwazi usebenza kakuhle ngokuba uke ufumanise ukuba umsebenzi siwena ngokulindana...sitshintshisana ngezizinto sisebenza ngazo”. English translation “ What we complain more about are the seeds, uniform such as work boots.....we can’t work productively as we must wait for each other” .

Participant 09. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “Into esake sayinikwa yi overall neskipa, I bhotsi kudala sagqibela ukuzinikwa and ziyona sisebenza ngayo kakhulu” English translation “ One thing they once gave us are the overalls and shirts and in terms of boots its something that we received long time ago yet we work with it all the time”.

Participant 20. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “Nalapha equzeni, sipeta ngamatenesi because ii tools asinazo, amaquze asinawo..Il work suit zona hayi sinazo and akuyonto ekufane uyinxibe. Iquze ngu ndoqo namatholisi..siyi three efotshelweni eyi one yiyolonto edala sisilele uyayiqonda uba siyahlala”. English translation “Work boots are not provided, we use sneakers. We have no tools but in terms of work suit we do have as we do not often wear them but boots are a need...We are three in one

spade and that is the cause of our delay you understand that we must sit and do nothing”.

Participant 30. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “Zabefikile saqeqeshelwa ukuthi sibe nezi skills xakuplastelwa, sifundiswe ukubiya kwenye igam sithathwe sisiwe e town sifundiswe ukulima nangona sekunqabile ngoku but pha ekuqaleni kwe project sasiqeqeshwa. Ezi training zindincedise ekuplasteleni ngoba ngoku kukhona umntu endihamba naye oyi mesilani”. English translation “We were trained for plastering and fencing and some other time we were taken to town to learn about agriculture and gardening, but the training were provided at the beginning of the project not now. The training assisted me as now I am working with someone who is a builder”.

Participant 27. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “Yhoooo sagqibela kudala hlo, yhooo andisakhumbuli yhoo kwakukudala sikwezo trainings”. English translation “Yhoo we last received them long time ago, I don’t remember, it was a long time ago the last we received the training”.

Participant 16. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “Zandinceda kuba ndakwaz kwenza isitiya sam endlining ndasebenzisa ezizakhono and andifuni noxoka kuye kwatyeba kahle nyani. English translation “ The training and skills assisted me as I was able to start my own garden at home and there is a big cnage and production”.

Participant 18. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “Igcine kudala into ye training sisi ibigxile kakhulu kwababantu bakaw home based care ibingagxilanga kakhulu kwelethu icala” English translation “ We lant received training long time ago and it focused more on home based care not on our sector”.

Participant 19. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “ Eyona nto inqaba kakhulu ngamanzi, kuba siwakha ekudeni coz ayikho into esingayenza engekho amanzi” English translation “ We have water shortage and we fetch water very far...there is nothing we can do without water”.

Participant 20. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “Abakafiki bake bazosibheka apho siphangela khona ngokwendawo zethu kuse ngamasupervisor

wethu asibhekayo nawo angenachance yokuba makathini kuba izinto zisuka kwabakhulu andithi nabo baphethwe and nathi siphethwe”. English translation “They have never come to our work sites, it is only the supervisors who are coming but they themselves can not do much as orders must come from the big bosses, they also have their own managers same applies to us”.

Participant 20. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “Sagqibela sisasando qeshwa ukuqeqeshwa, kukhona I khaladi esasisebenza nalo elalisibonisa ukuthi kwenziwa kanjani, lalisinakekele ngoku sasisaphethwe yila khampany yakuqala wayesithi funeka sense kanje, sityale kanje. Abalungisa umgwaqo mabenze kanje, abakwa construction kanje ngoku asisaqeqeshwa”. English translation “ The training that were provided were when we were still new in this programme, there was a colored who worked with us showing us how to do things and plant. The coloured took care of us and it was during the time when we were still managed by the first company, showing us how to plant, and showing those in roads manitanance and construction on how to do things but now we no longer trained”.

Participant 18. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “Nokufumana iitrainings yinto engasiphucula noko, futhi ke xasi trainway kungathathwa umntu omnye kuphume noba babini ukuze nifundisane” English translation “ To be offered trainings can really improve us and not to have one person selected for the trainings but at least tow so that we can teach each other”

Participant 14 (Site supervisor). Interview Date: July 2023: 342. At eMaxesibeni. “Like basize apha e officin kunento ethi kufuneka sinikwe imali, yokuba sisubmithile namhlanje, kodwa siya signa asiyinikwa lomali”. English translation “Like when we come to the office for submission there is something that say we must be given money, but we do sign for the money and they do not give us”.

Participant 14 (Site supervisor). Interview Date: July 2023: 342. At eMaxesibeni. “Like basize apha e officin kunento ethi kufuneka sinikwe imali, yokuba sisubmithile namhlanje, kodwa siya signa asiyinikwa lomali”. English translation “Like when we come to the office for submission there is something that say we must be given money, but we do sign for the money and they do not give us”.

Participant 08. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “We planted vegetables and once the vegetables were ready to be eaten they the produce was used for school nutritionIt brings change as for example if our vegetables are good and ready and some people are poor and live a life of poverty and we play our role by going to those people and families and give them our produce so that they can cook. Some often come and buy our produce and we use that money to buy more seeds”.

Participant 26. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “One thing I am grateful of is that I was sitting at home and unemployed and through CWP I have an income now, even though the stipend is not enough for my needs but it’s better than receiving nothing. its employment is slow and they only employed when another person has left the project for example if one of us get a better employment elsewhere then they leave the CWP will employ only then. So, they only replace people”.

Participant 03. Interview date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “No, there is poor service delivery; government often makes promises but does not keep the promises made”.

Participant 12. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “No, there is not much service delivery progress; they are so slow, and the promises are never kept”.

Participant 16. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “We are not satisfied with service delivery as our needs are not addressed, we have no water, there is very poor infrastructure such as road. The road was constructed a long time ago and now is in bad condition”.

Participant 26. Interview date: July 2023. “The reason I was employed in this CWP project is that CWP assist unemployed people and poor and I was employed like that as I was unemployed and staying at home”

Participant 38. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “For me to be part of this project it was difficult at the time, it was difficult as I had many things that I couldn’t do because I don’t have money and there is no one working and at home children are attending school then I was employed based on that”.

Participant 05. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “We were hired because we were involved in ANC matters, and then we were employed because we were known as vocal comrades”.

Participant 20. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “The project was so great when we had a different company. That coloured did so much for all CWP sectors. But now there is no training we are still using the previous training”.

Participant 09. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “Our garden practices assisted the school kids as they benefited from our harvest. As the school would buy seeds and then we plant them, then once the produce is ready then the school would harvest so that the learners can have nutritious food”.

Participant 43 (Site Supervisor). Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “When I was employed I saw that my life really changed as when I think and look and see people and other youth who are unemployed, maybe I would be part of the people who are doing drugs or part of the youth who lives on the streets. My life really changed after working in this programmed I don’t want to lie.....And those poor old people, for example we plant for them and the households with orphans and kids with disabilities we also plant for them”.Participant 20. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “It is trying to improve our lives as no one would be giving us stipend. It really changed our lives as if it was not because of CWP most of us we will be domestic workers. At least now we are getting something....We give the school and sell to the community”.

Participant 33. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “My life did not change as much, the project is not doing so great. Yes they did say the money will be little as it is for toiletries but it is too small as send children to school and it becomes worse when you are a single parent as you need to provide food and uniform , there is also school fees and our children are in high school even those who are in university as NSFAS sometimes delays payments and that child will be away and needs money for food. For example, now my two children one is in university and one collage, the NSFAS money is not approved yet, now I must take from the stipend so that the child get food and end up those at home suffering. For example if you have Maize meal, salt and oil, some essentials you do not know where you will get them. I wish, yes the Lima

project they do not have money but I don't know what they can do but a raise would do good. We have community gardens that belongs to people, as the project called community work. We work for those people, so we plant, water the garden for that person and it belongs to that person and when we sell we sell for that personalso to help the poor people where we can and give them vegetables that we have”.

Official 02. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “Another challenge again there is no transport to use to go and monitored people on sites and therefore the people on sites do as they pleases....I am the one who must have transport for site visit to check if they are working as they sleep on duty as we are not there and they know that we are not coming.....The site visit issue I am supposed to conduct them daily or weekly or even everyday as it was like that at first where we did site visit everyday or trice a day depending on the car availability. Now even the money we get for site visit it is little and we also getting very low salaries then we end up using it and end up not going to the site visits. So it's like that and even if we do go we visit those around town and around the road. Not those who are far for example Gogela, you see?.....For example in the morning they are going to town and afternoon that the time they are leaving town to rural areas. So it is hard like that. This is the thing that I am supposed to do weekly, us as the office staff we are monitored also as they conduct visits and I can't say this is done monthly or annually they come anytime”.

Participant 20. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “We are in shortage of fencing material”.

Participant 33 (Site Supervisor). Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “Fencing is poor for example the livestock would enter the garden and destroy the garden”.

Participant 35. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “There was a case since the wiring poles are very old and broken the cows entered and ate everything and we had no produce now we saw that we must go to the forest and cut poles and asked boys to assist us and now we are independent as we often ask for wire and poles but they never gave us”.

Participant 45. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “We have watering cans. And water our garden.....No, they are not far maybe we take 10 minutes to go and fetch water. They are not far, if they can help us with water so that our plants and garden can go well, we complain about the water mostly”.

Participant 46. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. Kukudinga amanzi, siwakha kude, ngengcono ukuba singafunyanelwa I tap ekufutshane enzele sikwaz uthelela zikhule kahle izityala”. English translation “We are fetching water very far so is our garden...it would be better if we would get a close by tap so that we can water and our plants can grow”.

Participant 14 (Site Supervisor). Interview Date: July 2023. At Emaxesibeni. “We have a problem that we have shortage of employees/participants especially my village we only have 5 per village and myself I work two jobs one being a supervisor and on two being a stock keeper. When I have a problem and it needs a stock keeper I struggle as when I leave the site there will be no one to oversee the site and after being a stock keeper I must be a supervisor as well.. There is no progress”.

Participant 30. Interview Daye: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “Hey my sister it really changed my life as at home I have a sister who is studying and at the time my mother was not receiving the grant and this money we get it assisted in paying school stuff such as fees even though we see that it is little but I am someone who is grateful as I am able to support at home and my sister and I appreciate it as it really improved my home circumstances. ..They really assist my sister for example we found that some other people are poor and we support them and give them our produce for free. Moreover, in terms of us it assists our salary as we can’t borrow money a lot as we can borrow from the project money and when we retuning it we can come with more seeds and sometimes the team would say do not bring it back as they know your dedication and also it helps with home consumption for us the employees. If you are someone who works well in a team the money from profits made it really assist ...Yes it is trying and when I look around it is really employing the poor people who are unemployed and receives no income. And I can say that it only employs the destitute people not unqualifying ones”.

Participant 05. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “I had no place to stay that I can call my own but I managed to get a site and through this project I was able to build a home. I have my own house because of this stipend”.

Participant 35. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “It changed my life this project I can buy bread and I do not sleep hungry. I can send my child to school using my stipend ...We also benefit as we also harvest the produce from those gardens to also give to other poor people who have no gardens”.

Participant 11. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “They must come and train us themselves. This can better our progress and give us motivation especially us the youth to even share at home about the trainings that are provided. They can be beneficial that we will know that we have a skill that we can use. This can also attract people to come and buy and there will be more motivation from us to keep pushing and love our job”.

Participant 01. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “Working material are not provided and we depend on the tools from our houses. ...We once did talk to the managers and the only thing that was brought was one spade onlyIn terms of uniform it comes once in a while and we wait again for the longest time and even when they bring uniform the uniform is often not enough as there is another thing that are short. For example, they would give us T-Shirts with no working boots or we get pants with T-Shirts. We Do not have jackets or uniform now”.

Participant 33. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “As workers we don’t have rain coats for rainy days, we don’t have the overalls, no safety boots for working. I Only got the uniform onceThere are a lot of things that makes this project to fail as we also do not have relevant working tools or equipment”.

Participant 32 (Site Supervisor). Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “They usually brought and sometimes the boots sizes they do not match they bring wrong sizes. We do not have work tools we use our personal ones”.

Participant 14 (Site Supervisor). Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “We don’t have uniform even when it is raining we can’t go to work because we have nothing to

wear as it is raining ..Yes, we work outside and that is a challenge as when it is raining we don't have rain coats and boots and we end up not going to work, we don't have jackets or hats. And me as the supervisor I need to sacrifice for the beneficiaries and end up not having anything. We don't have boots and if they are giving us boots they will give us oversize. Some wards literally don't have uniform. We are pleading them to support us with uniform and winter uniform”.

Participant 44. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “It is not helping us at all as we are selling only to use the money to buy more seeds and be able to plant again so that CoGTA and can see when they come to us they the work progress and not think we are eating the money”.

Participant 11. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “We don't have them we use the school seeds: We all contribute towards buying the seedsIt does as people we would agree that we will contribute maybe R30 and people don't come with the money and they would say they can't afford that as they are paid low stipend”.

Participant 14 (Site supervisor). Interview Date July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “Izityalo besiznikwa sisikolo u CWP akasasiniki nto” English translation “The school used to provide us with seeds as the CWP is no longer giving us anything”.

Participant 01. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “The stipend is very lowthe stipend we are getting it is really bad as the stipend is low..... It's not even close to R1000This is really hindering and makes me suffer as you mentioned that we send children to school it becomes difficult a lot”.

Participant 41. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “Our project does come with change as we can buy food as we could not buy food before this project and now we have hoped every month. I am not leaving this behind the money must increase as things are expensive, some of us solely depend to CWP stipend. Now you find that, yes it was increased to R960 can they again increase it to R1500 and after that and stop increasing after R1500, food is expensive, we also have kids who are school kids, they need school transport, lunch box and all that depends on us. We request, that

the government to assist us and increase the money to at least R1500 and that would be better as things are expensive”.

Participant 17. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “Time goes on and prices increasing in stores, yes, we do get assistance but the stipend is not enough. Yes, the project is about us doing things for ourselves and get a stipend it is not easy to survive but were gratefulYes, my sister there is a bit of change and I am able to buy things. Yes, we are better that we are receiving something than nothing”.

Participant 02. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “To tell you the truth ever since I got here we never attended any training. There was never a time when we hear that there is a training. We were employed and started working without any training”.

Participant 03. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “We never attended any training or workshop to educate us, no we never did. What helped me is that I once worked in a farmer where I learnt few skills and how to plant a cabbage and the distance you leave in between your cabbages for better produce but ever since I came her under CWP agriculture sector we were never trained”.

Participant 06. Interview Date: July 2023. “The stipend is too low ..Yes, the stipend is low but at least we are getting something than not getting something at all”.

Participant 20. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “We received training long time ago I remember it was after I got the job. A coloured came to us and train us on different agriculture methods and practices and that coloured would check on us and progress”.

Participant 39. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “We plant and we see that our garden is good but then we don’t have a good produce as the Intuku will come and destroy everything from the roots and they shrink”.

Participant 02. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “There are pests and they destroy our vegetables and we do not know what to do. As we are not trained and do not know what might help us”.

Participant 25. Interview Date: July 2023. “Yes, they once did and at the time the company was managed by a Coloured and they would come often to monitor, that was around 2013”.

Participant 31 (Site Supervisor). Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “I Walk.. They are a bit far from each other for example the and village. ..There are challenges such as having no transport to travel between villages and forced to walk which is a long distance walk and come back same day. Even when we are submitting documents to the office I must walk or use my money, that is a challenge. In terms of transport I have to plan and use my money or walkEven if it is raining you know a job must be done no matter what”.

“Like basize apha e officin kunento ethi kufuneka sinikwe imali, yokuba sisubmithile namhlanje, kodwa siya signa asiyinikwa lomali”. English translation “Like when we come to the office for submission there is something that say we must be given money, but we do sign for the money and they do not give us” (Participant 14, who is the supervisor, July 2023:342)

Participant 02. Interview Date: July 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “One important thing is to extend our working days as we are working 8 days a month. Example if they can give us 12 days or 14 monthly and by doing that the stipend would increase too”.

Official 02. Interview Date: December 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “It targeted the women, youth and disabled people, yes it targets the disabled the most”.

Official 01. Interview Date: December 2023. At eMaxesibeni (telephonically). “Our recruitment is like this, there may be a space from CoGTA after counting the number of people who have left the programme, and maybe they see that in Umzimvubu, they are 100, and there is a need to add more people and it is us at the office who receives such information and then we communicate that to the municipality LED department then they sit down as officials and councillors and search for that 100 people and share that 100 amongst themselves for example maybe each councillor must bring 2 people and others 5. Then they go to the communities and select those people through their own way of selection. This manner or way of selection via councillors is not right as

they do not choose appropriately or the way we want but there is nothing we can doBecause you are not within their political organisation”

Official 01. Interview Date: December 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “(taking a deep sigh) This question you are asking makes me sick (laughing).....What is happening as this is the government programme neh. So, the government does not run the programme but hires NPOs to run it. It has always been like that since 2009. However, things changed in March 2023. Then the government took over as it was evident that things are not done accordingly, people are eating the money and everything else, so government is the implementer since March, April until now”.

Official 01. Interview Date: December 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “Yey, when the programme was with the NPOs things were not things were not going smooth. They were buying tools but they were not enough there was always a shortage, they were buying uniform and the uniform was not full uniform or enough for everyone. They paid us better salaries sometimes as the companies were different and often changed so government took over and we had hope but the programme failed and things changed to worst. They are not doing anything, the programme is falling apart”.

Official 01. Interview Date: December 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “You can see we have older people in our programme as we have 23300 employees and we only have 203 young employees only”.

Official 01. Interview Date: December 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “Attract more youth people. Another thing is that more older people are getting old age pension grant to the programme. I wish they can be removed and be replaced by other people as there is more space available but the older people are occupying such space”.

Official 01. Interview Date: December 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “In terms of inputs I am the one making orders and they report in time and say what they need and sometimes I know what they need then I make an order with quantities and count for the whole site, I then deliver. However, I do this when there is a budget”.

Official 02. Interview Date: December 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “What are they getting is the uniform nothing more, they get uniform and boots and we call the PPE...They are

provided by national CoGTA before there was an implementing agent that was in between CoGTA and participants”.

Official 01. Interview Date: December 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “Mmmh the system of salary payments and dates of participants are not stable they change often for example the date for salary payments is 25 of each month but the participants would get it around 26 or later. So there is an issue in payment systems...Maybe the success is that no one has never received his or her salary during moth end. Because at first that was happening and some would complain that they did not receive their salary for several months. Now people are getting their money even if they did not receive the money on the actual date.....So they can’t stand this. But to my surprise they choose R350 over this R960”.

Official 01. Interview Date: December 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “The challenges that we have is that the budget that we have is not used for example the financial year started in April and the year is about to end and we never bought anything but the money is there....It is a must as it goes back. There was never a year where all inputs are bought and nothing is in short or lacking. They are bought but never be enough and they never buy them at all, obvious the money will go back and obvious the queries will be made for the senior management not us”.

Official 01. Interview Date: December 2023. At eMaxesibeni. “We have the drought challenge especially the Mount Ayliff side that side is very dry and that leads to shortage of water”.

LISTS OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 (a): Letter to the gatekeeper for permission

The Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform

603 Ntsizwa Street

Mount Ayliff, 4735

For attention: Mr Kaba

REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH ABOUT THE COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAMME IN ALFRED NZO, EMAXESIBENI

Dear Mr Kaba

My name is Abongile Pindo. I am a PhD candidate at University of Pretoria (UP) under the supervision of Professor Noëleen Murray. My wish is to conduct my PhD research about the Community Work Programme (CWP). My research will focus on one key development issue addressed by CWP, which is agriculture. The study seeks to assess effectiveness of social change projects such as CWP contribution in addressing poverty, unemployment and achieving sustainable agriculture development in eMaxesibeni, Alfred Nzo District. This study involves getting the insight and perceptions of the CWP beneficiaries and implementing stakeholders in terms of its role in addressing issues of poverty and unemployment.




I am sincerely seeking your permission to collect my research data from the CWP (agriculture) beneficiaries, the supervisors, government officials who are part of the agriculture sector implementers. The questions that will be asked during the data collection will be provided to the participants and not to the students for ethical reasons.

Since I am at my initial phase of my research, I am required to provide a consent letter with a letter heard or signature and stamp from the Department of CoGTA, Rural Development and Agrarian Reform and Department of Agriculture in order for me to receive the approval letter from the University of Pretoria Research Ethics Committee.

Upon completion of the research, I am required to provide the Department of Development Studies with a bound copy of my full research document. For more information and questions, please contact me and my supervisor at zamapindo@gmail.com / u21571342@tuks.co.za and noeleen.murray-cooke@up.ac.za.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

Abongile Pindo (0781419188)  26 July 2022

Appendix 1 (b): Letter to the gatekeeper for permission

The Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA)

Alfred Nzo

Mount Ayliff, 4735

For attention: Ms Makeke

REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH ABOUT THE
COMMUNITY WORK PROGRAMME IN ALFRED NZO, EMAXESIBENI

Dear Ms Makeke



My name is Abongile Pindo. I am a PhD candidate at University of Pretoria (UP) under the supervision of Professor Noëleen Murray. My wish is to conduct my PhD research about the Community Work Programme (CWP). My research will focus on one key development issue addressed by CWP, which is agriculture. The study seeks to assess effectiveness of social change projects such as CWP contribution in addressing poverty, unemployment and achieving sustainable agriculture development in eMaxesibeni, Alfred Nzo District. This study involves getting the insight and perceptions of the CWP beneficiaries and implementing stakeholders in terms of its role in addressing issues of poverty and unemployment.


I am sincerely seeking your permission to collect my research data from the CWP (agriculture) beneficiaries, the supervisors, government officials who are part of the agriculture sector implementers. The questions that will be asked during the data collection will be provided to the participants and not to the students for ethical reasons.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

Abongile Pindo (0781419188)  26 July 2022

Appendix 2 (a) Letter from the gatekeeper for permission

EASTERN CAPE

DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND AGRARIAN REFORM

Number: 19 Mazizi Nkanyuza Street. Mt Ayliff 4735. Umzimvubu Municipality SOUTH AFRICA
Email address: bwkabs@gmail.com,

Enq: 0833829349

Sir/Madam.

Subject: Approval for the study/research area for Ms Abongile Pindo.

This is to confirm that the above mentioned student has been granted a permission to research about the impact of CWP Programmes mainly in poverty alleviation and job creation. Abongile Pindo is a PHD student in University of Pretoria. The results of this research will also help the evaluation of this programme by my department. On behalf of my department I pledge to co-operate with her for the success of this research.

Thank you.

Capacity..... *AIS DIRECTOR*.....

Date..... *08/09/2022*.....

PROVINCE OF THE EASTERN CAPE
RURAL DEVELOPMENT & AGRARIAN REFORM
ALFRED HXOZO DISTRICT

08 SEP 2022

RECEIVED
MT AYLIFF

Appendix 2 (b) Letter from the gatekeeper for permission



Consent letter

To: Abongile Pindo

I **Ndileka Makeke (Assistant Manager COGTA)** under Alfred Nzo District Support Centre, together with **Southern African Youth Movement (SAYM)** the current CWP implementing IA (Implementing Agency) give our consent to collect research data from CWP participants under Agriculture sector. I also give my consent for the University to contact me or SAYM office regarding this activity.

Yours in Service delivery



.....
N Makeke
Assistant Manager (EC-COGTA)
0825596378 (M)
039- 9408717(O)



.....
B Mgodana
Site Manager(SAYM)
0710123910(M)

Appendix 3: Ethics approval letter



Faculty of Humanities
Fakulteit Geesteswetenskappe
Lefapha la Bomotheo



9 February 2023

Dear Miss A Pindo

Project Title: Social Change and Community Works in rural eMaxesibeni, Alfred Nzo district in the South Africa's Eastern Cape
Researcher: Miss A Pindo
Supervisor(s): Prof NF Murray-Cooke
Department: Anthropology, Archaeology and Development Studies
Reference number: 21571342 (HUM036/1122)
Degree: Doctoral

I have pleasure in informing you that the above application was **approved** by the Research Ethics Committee on 2 February 2023. Please note that before research can commence all other approvals must have been received.

Please note that this approval is based on the assumption that the research will be carried out along the lines laid out in the proposal. Should the actual research depart significantly from the proposed research, it will be necessary to apply for a new research approval and ethical clearance.

We wish you success with the project.

Sincerely,



Prof Karen Harris
Chair: Research Ethics Committee
Faculty of Humanities
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
e-mail: tracey.andrew@up.ac.za



**Appendix 4 (a): Letter of information for participants and consent form
(English version)**



Faculty of Humanities
Fakulteit Geesteswetenskappe
Lefapha la Bomotheo



**PARTICIPANT'S INFORMATION & INFORMED
CONSENT DOCUMENT**

STUDY TITLE: 'Social Change and Community Works in rural eMaxesibeni, Alfred Nzo district in the South Africa's Eastern Cape.

Principal Investigators: Abongile Pindo

Institution: University of Pretoria

DAYTIME AND AFTER-HOURS TELEPHONE NUMBER(S):

Daytime number/s: 0781419188

After Hours number: 0781419188

DATE AND TIME OF FIRST INFORMED CONSENT DISCUSSION:

		2023
Date	month	year

Time

Dear Prospective Participant

Dear Mr. / Mrs.....

1) INTRODUCTION

You are invited to volunteer for a research study. I am doing research for a Ph.D Degree purpose at the University of Pretoria. The information in this document is to assist you to decide if you would like to participate. Before you agree to take part in this study you should fully understand what is involved. If you have any questions, which are not fully explained in this document, do not hesitate to ask the researcher. You should not agree to take part unless you are completely happy about all the procedures involved.

2) THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY

The aim to assess the effectiveness of social change projects contribution of the such as CWP agriculture projects and the agriculture sector contribution in addressing poverty, unemployment and achieving sustainable agriculture development in Mount Ayliff eMaxesibeni, Alfred Nzo District'

3) EXPLANATION OF PROCEDURES AND WHAT WILL BE EXPECTED FROM PARTICIPANTS

This study involves answering some open ended questions with regarding the Social change to service delivery in the Eastern Cape, CWP agriculture project, its process, progress and how it has contributed to ending hunger and poverty in local communities. You are required to be as honest as possible in answering the interview questions.

4) POSSIBLE RISKS AND DISCOMFORTS INVOLVED

There are no potential risks associated with the study.

5) POSSIBLE BENEFITS OF THIS STUDY

Although you may not benefit directly. The study results may help us to improve the CWP projects in terms of its goals and implementation process and on how to ensure its sustainability.

6) COMPENSATION

You will not be paid to take part in the study. However, any cost you have because of taking part in the study, for example snacks and transport costs, will be paid back to you (reimbursed) should you have to use your money.

You will not be paid to take part in the study. There are no costs involved for you to be part of the study.

7) YOUR RIGHTS AS A RESEARCH PARTICIPANT

Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary and you can refuse to participate or stop at any time without stating any reason. Your withdrawal will not affect your job as the CWP beneficiary or employee.

8) INTERVIEW PROCEDURE

The interview will be audio-recorded and later transcribed. The interview will take place at a convenient time and place for the participant. The researcher will also take field notes. The interview will be individually and will last for about +-30 minutes.

There will be no break in between.

9) INFORMATION

If you have any questions concerning this study, you should contact:

The primary investigator Cell: 0781419188 and zamapindo@gmail.com or my research supervisor professor Noeleen Murray-Cooke 0823396770 or noeleen.murray-cooke@up.ac.za

10) CONFIDENTIALITY AND ANONYMITY

All information obtained during the course of this study will be regarded as confidential. The names and surnames of the participants will not be revealed but instead the pseudonym such as participant 1, 1, 3, etc. Only the researcher will be able to identify the participant. Results will be published but the participants will not

be traceable. The hard copies of the participant's records will be under protected password.

11) CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS STUDY

- I confirm that I have read the study information document and understand the study procedure and processes.
- I have had adequate time to ask questions and I have no objections to participate in this study.
- I am aware that the information obtained in the study, including personal details, will be anonymously processed and presented in the reporting of results.
- I understand that I will not be penalised in any way should I wish to discontinue with the study and that withdrawal will not affect my further treatments.
- I am participating willingly.
- I have received a signed copy of this informed consent agreement.

_____	_____
Participant's name (Please print)	Date
_____	_____
Participant's signature	Date
_____	_____
Researcher's name (Please print)	Date
_____	_____
Researcher's signature	Date

**Appendix 4 (b): Letter of information to participants and consent form
(isiXhosa version)**



Faculty of Humanities
Fakulteit Geesteswetenskappe
Lefapha la Bomotho



IMVUME YOKUTHATHA INXAXHEBA KOLUPHANDO

ISIHLOKO SOPHANDO: Social Change and Community Works in rural
eMaxesibeni,

Alfred Nzo district in the South Africa's Eastern Cape

Umphandi: Abongile Pindo

Idyunivesithi: Dyunivesithi yase Pitoli

INCUKACHA NGEZOQHAGAMSHELWANO

Emini: 0781419188

Emvakwemini: 0781419188

USUKU NEXESHA LOCUKAZULULA NGEMVUME YOKUTHATHA INXAXHEBA
KOLUPHANDO

Usuku	Inyanga	Unyaka

Ixesha

1. Intshayelelo

Uyamenywa ukuba uthathe inxaxheba koluphando. Ndenza uphando for izifundo zobu PhD neDyunivesity yasePitoli. Ngaphambi kokuba uvume ukuba uthathe inxaxheba koluphando kofuneka uluqonde uluvisile oluphando. Xauthe wanemibuzo malunga noluphando wamkelekile ukuba ubuze. Awuvumelekanga ukuthatha inxaxheba xauthe awaluqondisisa oluphando nendlela zophando.

2. Injongo yophando

Injongo yoluphando kukuphanda ngobume nenguquko eza neprojethi ezifana ne CWP Kwezolimo nenxaxheba yazo ekulweni instwela ngqesho nendlala eMaxesibeni kwisithili sase Alfred Nzo.

3. Indlela Uphando elizokwenziwa ngayo

Abo bathe bathatha inxaxheba bazakuphendula imibuzo mayelana notshintsho and inguquko eze ne CWP projecthi kwicala lwezolimo. Indlela ezi projethi zenziwa ngayo, impumelelo yazo, nendlala ezilwa indlala nentswela ngqesho ekuhlaleni. Uyacelwa uphendulo ngokunyaniseka.

4. Ubungozi

Oluphando alunabungozi

5. Igalelo lophando

Oluphando luzakuncedisa ukuphucula intlalo ne CWP projethi malunga nenjongo zayo noku implementwa.

6. Isinxiphezelo

Akuzubakho sinxiphezelo kwabo bathe bathatha inxaxheba. Kodwa abo bathe basebenzisa imali yabo for ukuqabela bazabuyiselwa lomali bayisebenzisileyo. Abazubhatalwa.

7. Abalungelo wabo bathe bathatha inxaxheba

Akhosinyanzeliso koluphando umntu uzathatha inxaxheba kuba ethanda futhi efuna. Nothe wafuna ukuyeka uzavunyelwa, ukuyeka kwakhe akazubuzwa sizathu soko.

8. Indlela ingxoxo ezokweziwa ngayo

Le ngxoxo yababini iza recordwa kodwa akuzuvezwa buso. Ingxoxo izakwenziwa ngexesha nakwindawo ekhethwe nguwe. Lengxoxo izaqhuba for imizuzu angabashumi amaane nangaphantsi. Akuzubakho kuphumla xakusenziwa lengxoxo.

9. Uqhagamshelwano

Othe wanemibuzo mayelana noluphando angabhala okanye afone kule nombolo 0781419188 okanye aemaile ku zamapindo@gmail.com

10. Imfihlo yenkcukacha

Lonke ulwazi ukufunyenwe koluphando luzagcinwa ngokukhuselekileyo. Amagama, ifani nedilesi zizagcinwa ziyimfihlo. Akukho namnye ngaphandle komphandi ozokwazi incukacha zabo bathe bathatha inxaxheba. Iziphumo zoluphando zizapapashwa kodwa amagama wabo bathe bathatha inxaxheba akazuvezwa naninina naphi na. Imiqulu enencukacha zabo baphandiweyo zizagcinwa ngokhuseleko.

11. Imvume ngokuzibandakanya koluphando

Ndiyavuma ukuba ndichazelwe ndoneliseka omalunga nophando, ndifundele ukuvisisa ukuba oluphando luzakwenziwa njani.

Ndilini kiwe ixesha elaneleyo lokubuza imibuzo, yaye ndiyavuma ukuba ngomnye abazothatha inxaxheba koluphando.

Ndiyazi yonke incukacha efunyewe kum koluphando, kunye nencukacha ngam njengegama nefani yam ayizuvezwa koluphando.

Ndiyazi andizujongana neziphumo ezimbi ukuba ndithe ndafuna ukuphuma koluphando.

Ndithatha inxaxheba ngokuzikhethela



Ndinikezwe umqulu wemvume kwaye ndiyavuma ukuthatha inxaxheba.

Igama lomntu othe wathetha

inxaxheba.....Usuku.....

Tyikitya.....Usuku.....

Igama

Lomphandi.....Usuku.....

Umtyikityo

womphandi.....Usuku.....

Appendix 5: Affirmation of informed consent by an illiterate participant

I, the undersigned, Abongile Pindo, have read and have explained fully to the participant, named, the informed consent document, which describes the nature and purpose of the study in which I have asked the him/her to participate. The explanation I have given has mentioned both the possible risks and benefits of the study. The participant indicated that he/she understands that he/she will be free to withdraw from the study at any time for any reason and without jeopardizing his/her standard care.

I hereby certify that the patient has agreed to participate in this study.

Participant's name (Please print)

Date

Participant's signature

Date

Investigator's Name (Please print)

Date

Investigator's Signature

Date

Name of the person who witnessed

Date

The person who witnessed Signature

Date

**Appendix 6 (a): Interview Schedule for Beneficiaries and site supervisors
(English version)**

1. Can you elaborate about the Eastern Cape service delivery and the effect of social change and its project to people and villages?
2. When did you start working under CWP agriculture sector?
3. How do you think the CWP project changes people's lives within the district?
4. How are the CWP participants recruited?
5. How does CWP agriculture sector work and what has been achieved by CWP gardens thus far in terms of alleviating poverty and ensure household income?
6. How are the CWP gardening produce used to achieve social change and fight poverty?
7. What can you say about the CWP implementing strategies to ensure sustainability of Rural Development within Alfred Nzo and Emaxesibeni?
8. What role do you think the project plays in poverty alleviation and employment opportunities?
9. What has the CWP agriculture project achieved in terms of Rural Development thus far?
10. How are the CWP agriculture projects being monitored and evaluated?

11. What do you think can be done differently and strategies to improve the CWP agriculture project for its effectiveness to rural development?
12. What has the CWP agriculture project changed in the beneficiaries lives in terms of poverty and employment?
13. What challenges are experienced by CWP agriculture project beneficiaries?
14. What skills and training are provided to CWP agriculture sector beneficiaries to ensure that they gain sustainable agriculture skills and their agriculture sites and gardening are improved?
15. What would you recommend do be done in order to address the CWP agriculture experienced challenges, ensure CWP efficacy and that CWP beneficiaries are well equipped with sufficient skills and training in order for the CWP agriculture sector to improve social change and achieve sustainable rural development?

**Appendix 6(b): Interview Schedule for beneficiaries and site supervisors
(isiXhosa version)**

1. Khaunabe malunga nokuziswa kwenkonzo eMpumakoloni nezithembiso eziza notshintsho neprojethi zenguqu ekuhlaleni naseluntwini?
2. Kha ucacise ngexesha owaqala ngalo ukusebenza phantsi kwe CWP kwicala lezolimo?
3. Ucinga ukuba I CWP projethi ibutshintshe kanjani ubomi babantu kwesisithili?
4. Ukuze ube ngomnye othabatha inxaxheba kwi CWP projethi wenza njani okanye kwenziwa njani?
5. Ingaba iiprojethi ze CWP kwicala lezolimo lusebenza njani?Futhi ungakhankanya uthi yeyiphi impumelelo okanye izifezekiso ezenziwe ngezolimo ukuzokuthi ga ngoku ukuquka ukulwa nendlala nokuqinisekisa ukuba abantu banemivuzo?
6. Ingaba izivuno ze CWP kwezolimo zincedisa njani ekuzeni notshtsho nokulwa nendlala?

7. Ungakhankanya uthini mayelana nokuphunyezwa kwe CWP projethi nendlela zokuqinisekisa uzinzo lwempucuko yasekuhlaleni kwisithili sase Alfred Nzo?
8. Ucinga ukuba iiprojethi ezinenjongo zokuza notshintsho okanye inguquko zidlala nxexhaba yiphi ekulweni nendlala nokuza namathuba emisebenzi?
9. Ucinga ukuba I CWP projethi ineyiphi impumelelo ukuphucula emaphandleni ukuzokuthi ga ngoku?
10. Ingaba I CWP projethi le yezolimo ibekwa elisweni and ivavanya njani?
11. Ucinga ukuba kungenziwantoni okanye zezipho izicwangciso ezingasetyenziswa ukuphucula iiprojethi CWP kwezolimo ekuzeni notshinstho, ukuphucula ubomi boluntu?
12. Ubutshintshe njani le projethi ubomi bakho futhi yayilwa kanjani indlala kuwe?
13. Yeyiphi imiceli mngeni enithe najongana nayo kule projethi?
14. Ingaba loluphi uqeqesho elunikezwa abachamli baleprojethi kwezolimo ukuohuhlisa izakhono nokuqinisekisa ulwimo lwebaxhamli susemgangathweni?
15. Ungaphefumla uthini malunga nokuphucula I CWP nokuqinisekisa ukuba iingxaki enithi nijongane nazo ziyasonjululwa, nolimo lwenu lusemgangathweni , nifumane zoqeqesho lezakhono zolimo nokuziphilisa nokokuba le projethi iyanda futhi iqhubeke ize notshintsho eluntwini?

Appendix 7: Interview Schedule for Government Officials

1. Age range and how long have you work under CWP agriculture sector project
2. When did the CWP agriculture sector project start in Emaxesibeni in Alfred Nzo and who did it targeted
3. How are beneficiaries and supervisors recruited and what is the required criterion?
4. Who is targeted for this project and why?
5. How many days do they work and salary range and is the salary below or above the poverty line how and why not?
6. What employment benefits do they have?
7. Which department or official do they report to?

8. What determines the salaries of the beneficiaries?
9. How do the agriculture sector gardens work and who is responsible for the garden's inputs and equipment?
10. What inputs /tools/equipment and resources are the garden beneficiaries often be provided with and these inputs are provided how often?
11. Which companies or NPOs have implemented or worked with CWP before and what has been their impact to the project implementation?
12. How has the CWP agriculture sector brings about social change and service delivery to Alfred Nzo, eMaxesibeni?
13. How has this project contributed to sustainable community development, livelihoods and poverty alleviation?
14. Does the CWP have its budget that is meant for the progress of the projects? If yes, how is it contributing to the project and if not where does the budget for the project comes from?
15. Is this project contributing to community based economic development why and why not?
16. What workshops and training are available for CWP agriculture sector beneficiaries and site supervisor and the impact of such trainings to the employees and project successes and progress?
17. Do you have programme exit plans for beneficiaries for permanent jobs and furthering studies?
18. What are the CWP agriculture sector challenges and successes since its implementation?
19. How often is the monitoring and evaluation of the gardens progress, the project and what system is used?
20. What recommendation can you suggest to improve the project in terms of its role to poverty alleviation and employment creation?

Appendix 8: Biographical details of the participants

PARTICIPANT PSEUDONYM CODE	GENDER MALE OR FEMALE	AGE	DISTRICT	RACE	HOME LANGUAGE	CWP EMPLOYMENT DURATION
1	Female	50	Alfred Nzo Municipality	Black African	IsiXhosa	06 years
2	Female	44	Alfred Nzo Municipality	Black African	IsiXhosa	07 years
3	Female	45-50	Alfred Nzo Municipality	Black African	IsiXhosa	04 years
4	Female	50	Alfred Nzo Municipality	Black African	IsiXhosa	04 years
5	Female	45	Alfred Nzo Municipality	Black African	IsiXhosa	06 years
6	Female	57	Alfred Nzo Municipality	Black African	IsiXhosa	04 years
7	Male	51	Alfred Nzo Municipality	Black African	IsiXhosa	06 Years
8	Female	40	Alfred Nzo Municipality	Black African	IsiXhosa	06 Months
9	Female	34	Alfred Nzo Municipality	Black African	IsiXhosa	06 years
10	Male	49	Alfred Nzo Municipality	Black African	IsiXhosa	06 years
11	Female	31	Alfred Nzo Municipality	Black African	IsiXhosa	1 year
12	Female	39	Alfred Nzo Municipality	Black African	IsiXhosa	06 years

13	Female	51	Alfred Nzo Municipality	District	Black African	IsiXhosa	04 years
14 (Site supervisor 1)	Female	42	Alfred Nzo Municipality	District	Black African	IsiXhosa	06 years
15	Female	40 to 45	Alfred Nzo Municipality	District	Black African	IsiXhosa	04 years
16	Female	55	Alfred Nzo Municipality	District	Black African	IsiXhosa	12 years
17	Female	42	Alfred Nzo Municipality	District	Black African	IsiXhosa	12-13 years
18	Male	36	Alfred Nzo Municipality	District	Black African	IsiXhosa	11-12 years
19	Female	46	Alfred Nzo Municipality	District	Black African	IsiXhosa	06 years
20	Female	45-50	Alfred Nzo Municipality	District	Black African	IsiXhosa	14 years
21	Female	38	Alfred Nzo Municipality	District	Black African	IsiXhosa	14 years
22	Female	42	Alfred Nzo Municipality	District	Black African	IsiXhosa	13 years
23	Female	35	Alfred Nzo Municipality	District	Black African	IsiXhosa	14 years
24	Female	31	Alfred Nzo Municipality	District	Black African	IsiXhosa	10 years
25	Female	51	Alfred Nzo Municipality	District	Black African	IsiXhosa	09 years
26	Female	48	Alfred Nzo Municipality	District	Black African	IsiXhosa	02 years
27	Female	41	Alfred Nzo Municipality	District	Black African	IsiXhosa	11 years
28	Female	30	Alfred Nzo Municipality	District	Black African	IsiXhosa	04 years

29	Female	50	Alfred Nzo Municipality	District	Black African	IsiXhosa	06 years
30	Male	35	Alfred Nzo Municipality	District	Black African	IsiXhosa	13 years
31 (2nd site supervisor)	Male	48	Alfred Nzo Municipality	District	Black African	IsiXhosa	03 years
32 (3rd site supervisor)	Male	55	Alfred Nzo Municipality	District	Black African	IsiXhosa	04 years
33	Female	43	Alfred Nzo Municipality	District	Black African	IsiXhosa	11 years
34	Female	40s	Alfred Nzo Municipality	District	Black African	IsiXhosa	11 years
35	Female	40s	Alfred Nzo Municipality	District	Black African	IsiXhosa	11 years
36	Female	40s	Alfred Nzo Municipality	District	Black African	IsiXhosa	14 years
37	Female	42	Alfred Nzo Municipality	District	Black African	IsiXhosa	14 years
38	Female	51	Alfred Nzo Municipality	District	Black African	IsiXhosa	05 years
39	Female	42	Alfred Nzo Municipality	District	Black African	IsiXhosa	11 years
40	Male	38	Alfred Nzo Municipality	District	Black African	IsiXhosa	06 years
41	Female	54	Alfred Nzo Municipality	District	Black African	IsiXhosa	11 years
42 (4th supervisor)	Female	37	Alfred Nzo Municipality	District	Black African	IsiXhosa	11 years
43 (5th supervisor)	Female	34	Alfred Nzo Municipality	District	Black African	IsiXhosa	11 years
44	Male	41	Alfred Nzo Municipality	District	Black African	IsiXhosa	11 years



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45	Female	32	Alfred Nzo District Municipality	Black African	IsiXhosa	01 year
46	Female	25	Alfred Nzo District Municipality	Black African	IsiXhosa	08 Months
Official 1	Male	28-37	Alfred Nzo District Municipality	Black African	IsiXhosa	10 years
Official 2	Female	35-45	Alfred Nzo District Municipality	Black African	IsiXhosa	

Appendix 9: Language Editing Letter

31 AUGUST 2024
CAPE TOWN

I herewith declare that I have proofread and edited the accompanying thesis for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Development studies, titled

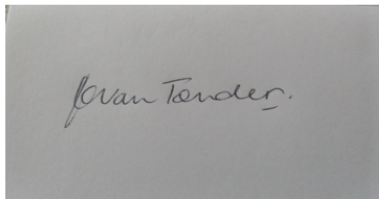
Social Change and Community Works in rural eMaxesibeni, Alfred Nzo District in the South Africa's Eastern Cape

By

Abongile Pindo

21571342

I trust that the alterations I have suggested have been implemented where applicable.



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Appendix 10: Turn it in report

21571342 Abongile Pindo PhD Thesis

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