

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**A STUDY OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLE
VENDORS IN THE CENTRAL REGION OF THE
EASTERN CAPE PROVINCE**

BY

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Degree: M. Inst. Agrar (Agricultural Economics)

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Unemployment rates are very high in South Africa. The Eastern Cape province is one of the poorest provinces in South Africa and is characterised by a large number of unemployed people. Many of the unemployed have entered the lawless business as a way of survival and to support their families.

The objective of this study is to establish a profile of fruit and vegetable vendors in the Eastern Cape and to highlight the constraints they experience in their trade. The study highlights the conditions in which they operate, discuss the sources of supply, their prices and profit margins and also the other related issues.

Various methods including a questionnaire survey, personal observations and interviews were used to investigate the activities of the vendors.



ABSTRACT

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Unemployment numbers are very high in South Africa. The Eastern Cape province is one of the poorest provinces in South Africa and is characterised by a large number of unemployed people. Many of the unemployed have entered the hawking business as a way to survive and to supplement the meagre income.

The objective of this study is establish a profile of fruit and vegetable vendors in the Eastern Cape and to highlight the constraints they experience in their trade. The study highlights the conditions in which the vendors trade, discuss the sources of supply, their prices and profit margins and also the sites where they operate.

Various methods including a questionnaire survey, personal observations and interactions were used to investigate the activities of the vendors.

The central region of the Eastern Cape is the focus of this study. Four magisterial districts within the region were selected for analytical purposes with regard to fruit and vegetable vendors.

The results show a mixture of negative and positive trends. The trade activities of these vendors reflect more positive and favourable trends albeit the negative ones which are surmountable. Despite the negative trends the potential for success is high if the right approach is adopted.

The unemployment problem is not going to be solved by government efforts alone but with the help of others with self initiatives e.g., the group in this study. It is therefore recommended that the initiatives and interest shown by these traders should be encouraged and supported through viable policies and less costly government interventions.

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