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RURAL HOUSEHOLD DIVERSITY IN THE LELIEFONTEIN DISTRICT OF THE NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE OF SOUTH AFRICA

by

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ABSTRACT

This study is undertaken in one of the historically "coloured reserves" of the Northern Cape Province called Leliefontein. The study is a response to the request by the Department of Agriculture, Northern Cape to improve their extension service. The study shows that there is a major dilemma for planners, extension officers or any development initiator to introduce development plans to the disadvantaged farming community. The lack of knowledge and an understanding of the large diversity amongst rural farming households is a possible root cause of this dilemma. The study addressed this particular issue.

The study hypothesis is: the behaviour of the rural farming households in Leliefontein area is diverse and is reflected by the way the households view agriculture and practice the farming activities they are involved in. The overall objective of the study is to compile an understanding about the diversity in farming households.

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The specific objectives are: to identify and explain the diversity of livelihood amongst households; to develop a typology consisting of diverse types situating agriculture's functional relevance; and to make recommendations for improved agricultural service per type by the Department of Agriculture, Northern Cape Province.

The methodology was carried out in the sequence of question formulation, data collection and data processing out of the sample size of 108 households. Data collection was through a structured questionnaire and unstructured interviews. Typology technique, which is the tool that can be used to group activity units according to their modes of operation and characteristics, was applied to the study area. The following were some of the factors used to construct a typology for the Leliefontein area: farming activities, rationality, life cycle of the household and decision making characteristics of a household. The findings of this qualitative analysis were controlled and confirmed by quantitative methods of discriminant analysis and logistic regression.

The seven types of households reflecting this diversity are: Autonomous Households; Livestock Holders; Irregular Income Earners; the Poorest; Regular Income Earners and Social Transfer Dependent types. These types display differences in decision-making pattern, the livestock keeping techniques and life strategies. Possible development trajectories which the different types can follow should an external stimulus (i.e. a developmental initiative) be injected, are also identified for use by extension activities.

Livestock farming is the main agricultural activity in the study area. The findings of the study however show that there exists substantial diversity among the communities, for example, livestock farming serve different functions in that community. Livestock is kept not only for economic reasons but also for social, religious and hedonistic reasons.

The study concludes that it is essential that the knowledge of rural diversity be integrated into planning and the extension service. Development should be regarded as a holistic procedure in which not only the agricultural extension receives focus but also other aspects that will facilitate the extension service, such as credit facilities and the human

development factor. The recommendations focus on guidance to agricultural extension officers on how to select and analyse target types in order to design a more effective support service to rural households.

DIVERSITEIT VAN LANDELIKE HUISHOUDINGS IN DIE LELIEFONTEIN DISTRIK VAN DIE NOORD KAAP PROVINSIE VAN SUID AFRIKA

Deur

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UITTREKSEL

Hierdie studie is onderneem in een van die voormalige"kleurling reservate" van die Noord-Kaap Provinsie, naamlik Leliefontein. Die doel van die studie is om te reageer op 'n versoek om hulp van die Landbou Department se kantoor in Springbok, Noord Kaap Provinsie vir die verbetering van die voorligtingsdiens. Volgens die navorsing bestaan daar 'n dilemma vir beplanners, voorligtingspersoneel en ontwikkelaars wat ontwikkelingsaksies ten opsigte van die histories benadeelde boerdery gemeenskap wil invoer. 'n Gebrek aan kennis oor die aard en diversiteit van landelike boerderyhuishoudings is moontlik die hoofoorsaak van hierdie probleemsituasie.

Die hipotese vir die studie is dus: die gedrag van die landelike boerderyhuishoudings is verskillend (divers) en word weerspieël deur die wyse waarop huishoudings boerdery benader, sowel as die manier waarop hulle boerderyaktiwiteite bedryf.

Die hoof doelwit van die navorsing is om 'n begrip van die diversiteit van boerderyhuishoudings in die Leliefontein omgewing te formuleer.

Die bepaalde doelwitte is: identifisering en beskrywing van die diversiteit tussen huishoudings; die ontwikkeling van 'n tipologie om hierdie diversiteit te beskryf; en die maak van aanbevelings vir die verbetering van landbou voorligtingsdienste aan die verskillende tipes binne die tipologie.

Die metedologie is uitgevoer in volgorde van vraag formulering, dataversameling, en dataverwerking uit 'n steekproef van 108 huishoudings. Die dataversameling is met behulp van gestruktureerde vraelyse en ongestruktureerde gesprekke onderneem. Die tipologietegniek, 'n instrument wat gebruik word om aktiwiteite te groepeer volgens operasionele handelwyse en karaktertrekke, is aangewend vir die studie. Die volgende faktore is gebruik om die tipologie vir die Leliefontein area te bepaal: boerderyaktiwiteit, rasionaliteit binne besluitneming, die lewensiklus en besluit neming binne landelike huishouding. Die resultate van hierdie kwalitatieweanalise is gekontroleer en bevestig deur kwalitatieweanalasie metodes, naamlik deur diskriminasie analisie en logistieke regressies.

Die tipologie dui op sewe tipes huishouding groeperings: Onafhanklike Huishoudiens, Besitters van Veediere, Nie Gereelde Inkomste Verdieners, die Armstes; die Salaristrekkers; en die Sosiale Dienste Afhanklike tipe. Hierdie tipes vertoon verskille in die wyse van besluitneming, die tegnieke van vee bennutig, rasionaliteit en lewenswysestrategie. Die ontwikkelingstrajekte wat die verskillende tipes in die toekoms kan volg, sou 'n uitwendige stimulus (bv. 'n ontwikkelingsinisiatief) geïniseer word, word ook geskryf.

Veeboerdery is die hoofboerdery aktiwiteit in die studiegebied. Volgens die bevindings van die studie bestaan daar egter 'n duidelike diversiteit onder die landelike gemeenskappe van Leliefontein, byvoorbeeld, die aanhou van veediere is gerig op verskillende funksies in die gemeenskap. Diere word egter nie net vir ekonomiese redes aangehou nie, maar ook vir sosiale, godsdienstige en kulturele/ hedonistiese redes.

Dit is noodsaaklik dat die kennis oor diversiteit van landelike huishoudings geïntegreer word by die beplanning en besluitneming van die provinsiale landbouvoorligtingsdienste. Ontwikkeling moet beskou word as 'n holistiese prosedure waarin nie net op die landbouvoorligtingsdienste gefokus word nie, maar ook op die ander aspekte wat voorligtingsdienste sal ondersteun (bv. kreditfasiliteite en die menslike faktor). Met die aanbevelings word gepoog om leiding aan die voorligtingsbeampte te verskaf waarvolgens 'n teikengroep geidentifiseer en beskryf kan word en waar ondersteuningsdienste aan die landelike huishoudings beplan kan word.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 3:   DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA

CHAPTER 4:   METHODOLOGY OF ANALYSIS

CHAPTER 5:   ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

CHAPTER 6:   SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

REFERENCES

ANNEXURES

LIST OF TABLES

LIST OF FIGURES

LIST OF MAPS