

Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Chief Directorate: Rural Development

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GAUTENG
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Kuyasheshwa - "Gauteng working better"

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INTRODUCTION

Background;

- The term rural development is used in different ways. There is no exact definition of a rural area but rural areas are clearly recognizable.
- Rural areas constitute spaces where human settlement and infrastructure occupy only small patches of the landscape, most of which is dominated by fields and pastures, woods and forest, water, mountain and desert.

background continues..

- Rural people usually live in farmsteads or settlements of 5 -10 000 people.
- In formulating of rural nodes, current growth, natural resources, infrastructure and economic activities were used as indicators resulting in fourteen(14) rural development nodes identified in Gauteng.
- Given the multi-dimensional nature of rural development, human needs were used as a second filter. Finally agricultural indicators were used as the third filter.

background continues..

- Based on the StatsSA reports, the fourteen rural nodes were narrowed down to four(4) with the highest level of human needs, namely; Devon in Lesedi Local Municipality, Bantu Bonke in the Midvaal Local Municipality, Hekpoort in the Mogale City Local Municipality and Kwa- Sokhulummi in the City of Tshwane.

background continues..

- The essence of rural development lies in creating growth capacity for sustained self-development.

The objectives of rural development are as follows:

- (a) Increase in production and productivity;
- (b) Equity,
- (c) Gainful employment
- (d) Ecological balance, which include proper management of physical resources such as land, water, etc

- Rural development changes environments which enables poor people to earn more, invest in themselves, conservation of the environment and appropriate land use practices.
- When the intended benefits in rural development do not reach the rural poor, either one or two or both the following assumptions seem to be correct:

background continues..

- (a) The poor have not been able to understand adequately the process of rural development mainly because they have no meaningful participatory role in the development process;

- (a) The process of administrative organisation, including building viable institutional linkages and multiple delivery channels have not been tackled adequately.

CHIEF DIRECTORATE: RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Rural Coordination;

1. Council of Stakeholders (COS)

Council of Stakeholder empowers local people to own their development, and as such develops a sense of ownership.

They contribute in capacity building and mobilization of community members, and can be a vital resource for stewardship

Rural Development activities..

2. Farm workers and Farm dwellers/tenants

These individuals are the residence of these rural communities. Capacitating them will allow the correct use of land and promote conservation.

The majority of ground work can be achieved by actively involving them.

Rural Development activities..

Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (BBBEE)

1. Gauteng Rural Social Compact Plan (GRSCP)
 - Support to the participants of the social compact in relation to developments of farmworkers, dwellers and farm tenants which are consistent with job creation, skills and capacity development and these include projects which are economically sustainable and environmentally friendly.

Rural Development activities..

2. Small Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMME)

- Economic diversification and the promotion of non-farm economic activities are key aspects of rural development. The informal sector is a major source of income generation, particularly for youth and women. Which facilitating the promotion of SMMEs activities.
- The SMME are the economic drivers of these rural communities and provide viable partnership for stewardship

Possible Linkages between Rural Development, Land Reform & Biodiversity Stewardship in Gauteng

- Rural poverty has a major impact on the sustainable utilization of natural resources. Widespread poverty in rural areas compels people to over-exploit their surrounding natural resources in order to survive.
- Activities such as housing developments and extensive agricultural practices are reducing the vegetal capital stock and the water retention capacity of land, and increasing erosion. Protected areas have been encroached upon for settlement.

linkages continues..

- Intensification of rural production and income-generating activities especially agriculture, can help lessen pressure to exploit forests and areas that are of significance to the protection of nature.
- The first linkage is the role of the municipality' structures as crucial in the implementation of rural development strategy and stewardship.

linkages continues..

- While poverty contributes to environmental degradation, so environmental degradation contributes to intensified and perpetuated poverty.
- Nonetheless, Gauteng has a rich natural endowment, with some 4% of its territory established as protected areas to conserve its biodiversity.

The Gauteng IDC Nguni Cattle Development Project (the Trust)

- The primary objective of the Trust is to re-introduce the Nguni Breed into the black farming communities in Gauteng, with the long term objective of developing an international niche market for producing Nguni cattle products by these communities.
- The beneficiaries are owners of large land space in which stewardship can be explored on their farms.

CONCLUSION

- The Rural Development strategy is not only meant to bring into operation any poverty alleviation mechanisms but it is also a framework for integrating all rural-based initiatives. For rural development stewardship to happen, various sectoral policies and strategies must be coordinated to ensure harmonious implementations by the various stakeholders.

- The strategic partnership of stated Rural Development activities provide a wide range of stewardship opportunities as these activities are in and around farming landscapes.
- Deliberate efforts to expand and strengthen linkages among the key players and departments in rural development is vital to avoid duplication and conflicts.

THE END

"We have more possibilities in each moment than we realize"
–Thich Nhat Hanh -

THANK YOU!!

Sources

- Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Strategic Plan 2010 – 2014
- Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Strategic Plan 2014 – 2019
- Gauteng Rural Social Compact Plan Policy
- Gauteng IDC Nguni Cattle Development Project

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