

**AN ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENT**

**EXTENSION PROJECTS BY WOMEN**

**IN THE**

**SIMDLANGENTSHA DISTRICT,**

**KWA - ZULU NATAL.**

**A. N. Dlamini**

**AN ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENT  
EXTENSION PROJECTS BY WOMEN IN THE  
SIMDLANGENTSHA DISTRICT,  
KWA - ZULU NATAL.**

**By**

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requirements for the degree of  
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**In the  
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Date : November 2000**

## **DECLARATION**

**I, Agrineth Nokwethemba Dlamini, declare that the work, An Assessment of Development Extension Projects by Women in the Simdlangentsha District, is my own, and that all sources quoted have been acknowledged by complete references.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. N. Dlamini', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

**A. N. Dlamini**

## **DEDICATION**

**This work is dedicated to my mother Vesta Xulu and my son Sibonginkosi Hadebe.**

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## SUMMARY

The purpose of this study was to assess the efficiency of womens' development projects particularly agricultural extension projects with the aim of investigating their administration and impact on womens' livelihoods. The central view held by this study was that the important role played by women and the potential to fulfil an even greater role has been overlooked to a large extent in South Africa. Although there are numerous organisations and projects aimed at development at the rural and community level, very little attention has been paid to the role of women and the enhancement thereof. Special focus of the study was on women only development projects as it was assumed that these projects are starting points from which developing areas can start a movement of planned development. It was discovered that womens' development projects are still having some flaws because the recognition of such projects is still lacking from the work of development planners.

Essentially, the problem encountered among project participants was that of dual or multiple roles performed by women and such environmental problems like lack of access to markets, transportation and theft of produce. Training, management and organisation, empowerment and capacity building is still lacking in project participants. Basically those women who participate in projects do so from destitution. They are old, uneducated and poverty- stricken such that very little about these projects seems to be attractive and very little income is being generated from them. The study revealed that an awareness of the importance of development of women has started to surface , and some efforts are being made to accommodate women and to raise them.

The critical view of extension projects was that they comprise strengthening the autonomy of women to alleviate poverty.

This suggests that women should be brought fully into the development projects and must be given opportunity to put their abilities to full use at every stage of the development process. Extension projects must be seen therefore to be acknowledging this reality. To achieve this, womens' extension projects have to be reconsidered so that they lead to women becoming effective and efficient managers, administrators and decision-makers. Ongoing support and training is needed to ensure that the skills and expertise of women who are project participants are gradually being improved and they are afforded a chance to develop and have equal access to opportunities at all levels in the society.



## IQOQA

Inhloso yocwaningo bekungukubheka impumelelo yezinhlangano zentuthuko zamakhosikazi ikakhulukazi izinhlangano zezolimo ukuthi zisebenza kanjani nokuthi yini umthelela walezizinhlangano empilweni nakwinhlalakahle yamakhosikazi. Inggikithi ngalolucwaningo kwakungukuthi ubumqoka beqhaza elibanjwe ngamakhosikazi bubukeleke phansi bashaywa indiva kakhulu kuleli lasemzansi ne Afrika. Nakuba kukhona izinhlangano ezimbalwa ezihlose intuthuko emakhaya nasemiphakathini, kube kuncane kakhulu ukubhekela iqhaza elibanjwe ngamakhosikazi nemiphumela yalokho.

Ucwaningo belubhekiswe kakhulu ezinhlanganweni zamakhosikazi odwa ngoba kucatshangelwa ukuthi lezozinhlangano ziyisiqalo lapho izindawo ezithuthukayo zingaqalisa khona umshikashika wentuthuko ehlelekile. Ngalolucwaningo kutholakele-ke ukuthi lezizinhlangano zisenazo izinkinga njengoba ukuqashelwa kwazo akukabi sezingeni eligculisayo ngasohlangothini lwabahleli bemisebenzi yezentuthuko. Empeleni inkinga abahlangabezana nayo laba abangamalungu alezizinhlangano yilokho ukuthi abesimame bambandakanyeka emisebenzini eminingi noma bazithola kufanele ukuthi badlale izindima ezimbili noma ngaphezulu. Ezinye izinkinga yilezo zokusweleka kwezindlela zokuthengiswa komkhiqizo wabo, ukuthuthwa kwawo kanjalo nenkinga yokukhwatshaniswa komkhiqizo.

Kulezizinhlangano ngokunjalo uqeqesho, ukuphathwa nokuhleleka kwazo, ukunikwa amandla nokwakhiwa kwamalungu akukenzeki njengokufanelekileyo. Eqinisweni lawomakhosikazi asezinhlanganweni angena khona ngenxa yobubha nokweswela. Imvamisa badala kakhulu, abafundile kanti futhi bakhahlanyezwe ububha kangangokuthi kuncane kakhulu okubahehayo kulemisebenzi yezinhlangano zentuthuko, kanjalo nenzuzo etholakala khona incane kakhulu.

Ucwaningo nokho lukhombisile ukuthi sekuqalile ukuba ubumqoka bentuthuko yamakhosikazi bubhekeleke, kanjalo nemizamo iyenziwa yokuba imisebenzi yamakhosikazi iqhakambiswe. Iphuzu elisemqoka ekusungulweni kwalezizinhlangano kwakungukuhlomisa nokuqinisa amakhosikazi ukuze axoshe ububha. Ngalokho-ke amakhosikazi kumele ukuba angeniswe khaxa emisebenzini yentuthuko futhi anikezwe ithuba elanele lokuba akhombise amandla awo kuwo wonke amazanga kwezentuthuko. Lezizinhlangano-ke kumele zibonakale zikufakazela lokho. Ukuze-ke lokho kube yimpumelelo izinhlangano zentuthuko zamakhosikazi kumele ukuba zibhekeleke ukuze ziholele ekubeni amakhosikazi agcine engabaphathi bemisebenzi nabathathi bezinqumo abaphumelelayo. Uxhaso oluqhubekayo kanjalo noqeqesho luyadingeka ukuze amakhono nobuchule balaba ababambe iqhaza kulemisebenzi yezinhlangano zentuthuko buye ngokuya buba ngcono kanjalo futhi bazanyelwe amathuba okuzithuthukisa, babe futhi sesimweni sokuthola amathuba afanayo emazingeni onke emiphakathini.

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## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **1. ORIENTATION TO THE PROBLEM**

#### **1.1 INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY**

In rural development a wide range of development programmes and projects involving women have been implemented and studies about womens' situations and positions have been made whereby women have been perceived as indispensable participants in the development process. Initially the emphasis concerning development has been on low income and womens' needs but this concern has coincided historically with the recognition of their important roles in development ( Moser , 1993 : 55 ).In practice communities who were basically powerless especially women were not consulted in the identification of problems affecting them and in the implementation of development projects to address those problems.

Although women are seen as a group of producers that has been historically neglected, it is realised that support for their development projects could play an important role in economic growth and equitable development in South Africa.

Looking at agriculture, some studies have revealed that 46 per cent of South Africa's population is considered to be non- urban and must therefore make a living from primary agriculture.

As in the rest of the Third World the South African agricultural development sphere is perceived to be faced with an overwhelmingly large proportion of illiterate and semi - literate women farmers and rural dwellers.

These women are the elderly with very little or no educational background ( Beukes, Davies, van der Kooy and van Wyk , 1996 : 292 ).

The need therefore for economic reform in Southern Africa is forcing Agricultural extensionists, Home Economists as well as policy makers to pay increasing attention once again to the role of womens' extension projects in development.

This study suggests that there is a dire need to assess extension projects run by women so as to determine their efficiency and provide objective data on their strengths and weaknesses. Such data could serve as an aid to decision making in addressing the current concern to bring women into the mainstream planning process of agriculture and rural development extension services.

This study will also describe womens' participation in development and analyse their interaction with agricultural extension projects in particular. The researcher will be trying to find out if conditions revealed by the study undertaken by Mr Mbokazi in 1980 in this area still exist or there have been some changes.



That study was about the administration of rural development in Kwa - Zulu Natal with reference to Simdlangentsha and Nongoma Districts and it revealed that agricultural activities were not receiving priority and the farmers were only engaged in subsistence farming which was characterised by low productivity,irrationality and uncertainty in its activities and confined its little produce only to the family.

## **1.2 RESEARCH PROBLEM**

The problem regarding the study is that there have been many activities in the South African Government and the private sector to enable women to help themselves but it seems as if in many rural areas including Simdlangentsha development plans are still failing to fully recognise the role played by women and to meet womens' real needs and problems.

This study will therefore try to answer these questions :

- 1.Do proposed agricultural extension projects benefit women ?
- 2.What assistance is provided to womens' groups so that they can develop their strengths and become self sustaining ?
3. How can extension span the gender gap and increase productivity for the significant number of women farmers who have previously been by- passed by traditional extension systems ?

### **1.3 MOTIVATION OF THE STUDY**

Development projects are vehicles for generating change therefore it is imperative to investigate their impact on peoples' lives especially women.

Numerous studies have identified women as key actors in agricultural extension projects but it seems as if development has marginalised their resources and activities. It also seems as if development planning efforts still fail to recognise fully womens' actual and potential contribution to the development process.

This then calls for the recognition of the need to place women at the centre of extension and planning process. The advancement of women is assumed to be the necessary component of development cooperation and there is a dire need for the utilisation of their potential as a means to improve the quality of development as a whole. The low productivity of womens' agricultural projects has been perceived to be financially unviable and economically unsustainable. When governments are forced to cut back on public sector spending, the burden of providing basic needs and services to poor communities is falling increasingly on women.

Momsen ( 1991 : 101) argues that development projects directed at women are perceived to be small, scattered and peripheral to the main aims of development. They usually try to promote greater self- sufficiency rather than development in the sense of expansion and qualitative change.

As in the rest of the Third World , the South African agricultural development project sphere is faced with an overwhelmingly large portion of illiterate and semi- literate subsistence women farmers and womens' groups are assumed to be composed of the elderly with little or no educational background (Beukes, Davies, van der Kooy and van Wyk , 1996 : 292 ).

Considering existing agricultural extension, an approach is needed which is not entirely based on the material measurement of material effects but should be an approach that can give an explanation of what happens in the project which will seek to create awareness among rural women and to promote their participation in agricultural extension practice ( Oakley, 1988 : 5 - 6 ).

It is therefore imperative to explore the extent to which womens' development extension projects stimulate women development and to understand the opportunities they offer. It is also important to consider the relevance of rural womens' work as well as their status in rural development so that both governments and international agencies are informed that when planning for rural development they should allow for the social and technical improvements that are likely to benefit rural women and their communities in developing countries.

#### **1.4 ASSUMPTIONS AND HYPOTHESIS**

It is assumed that the type of agriculture practiced by rural women is subsistence agriculture.

Women are also assumed to be the proponents of agricultural development projects where the government and the private sector serve as a helping hand to provide new technologies, credit and access to resources in the form of development projects.

It is therefore hypothesised that if these development projects are to be implemented, women are not consulted in the identification of their needs and problems.

They are at times not made aware of development projects being established and are not even involved in the process of planning and management of those projects

#### **1.5 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The purpose of this study is to qualify the role played by women in Agricultural extension projects that exist in the Simdlangentsha district as well as the influence extension has had in their livelihoods. The objectives of the study shall be :

1. To find out if extension services rendered do address womens' needs and problems.
2. To determine time and task allocation for project activities as well as access to resources.

3. To gather detailed information on project experience of womens' organisations and some identification on the methods they use.
4. To investigate likely changes in the roles and statuses of women .
5. To indicate the types of women development projects currently being developed.
6. To indicate the scope for future projects and the need for partnership as well as for funding.

## **1.6 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND PROCEDURES**

### **1.6.1 DELINEATION OF THE STUDY**

The study intends to focus on womens' extension projects in the Simdlangentsha district. It is concerned with finding out how these projects are administered, how women benefit from extension services, how project participants are prepared and equipped with knowledge of managing and administering their projects.

*This investigation views agricultural extension as critically important as it addresses the needs of the farming community which is usually dominated by women.*

The study will centre on womens' projects of Simdlangentsha and is confined to this district out of 15 other agricultural districts of the North-East Region of KwaZulu- Natal.

This district is in Pongola area in the Northern part of KwaZulu- Natal Province. It extends up to the boarder between KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga Province and also between South Africa and Swaziland.

The word Simdlangentsha was derived from Amakhosi's surnames i.e. Sibiya, Simelane, Msibi, Mavuso, Mthethwa, Dlamini, Ndlangamandla and Ntshangase.

The study will be conducted in the six wards which are Simelane, Msibi, Mavuso, Sibiya, Ndlangamandla and Ntshangase.

### **1.6.2 RESEARCH DESIGN**

The type of research to be used will be the qualitative research method because it will describe reality in accurate verbal terms rather than just in numbers. It will be necessary because the researcher will be aiming at studying womens' groups in their natural setting so as to understand the dynamics of womens' extension projects.

The design to be used will be the evaluative design because the study will be based on the assessment of the efficiency of womens' extension programmes and projects.

The focus will be on groups for it is believed that people in a group share certain values of solidarity which may not apply to individuals and individual behaviour.

Another design which will be used will be the historical design where sources like annual reports, agricultural statistical reports and other project documents shall be consulted.

### **1.6.3 SAMPLING**

Sampling is the means by which a selection is made from the basic unit of study as it is impossible to observe or interview everyone.

Looking at the size of this district it can be realised that it will be expensive to collect data from all the population or units of analysis.

Sampling will then be done for the researcher to be able to work with a more manageable and cost effective set of cases rather than a larger pool.

#### **1.6.3.1 POPULATION**

The population is the aggregate of all cases that conform to some designated set of specifications.

The population for this study shall include all womens' development projects that are existing in the Simdlangentsha district for the period 1995 to 2000.

#### **1.6.3.2 TARGET POPULATION**

The target population shall be all those womens' clubs engaged in agricultural extension projects and have been in operation from 1995 to 2000.

#### **1.6.3.3 SAMPLE DESIGN**

A non-probability sample will be used for the selection of the representative sample. The researcher will use purposive or judgemental sampling where she will use her prior knowledge of womens' extension groups to draw representative groups from them who possess desired characteristics.

The population shall comprise 30 womens' clubs i.e. 5 clubs from each of 6 wards. The total number of 30 clubs shall be identified and then divided by 10 such that only 3 clubs from each ward remain to constitute the desired sample, therefore the total of 18 clubs shall make up the actual sample for the entire district.

As the district has 6 wards, 3 groups shall be chosen from Sibiya, 3 from Mavuso, 3 from Msibi, 3 from Ndlangamandla, 3 from Ntshangase and 3 from Simelane ward.

In each district 2 key informants shall be interviewed as well.

The researcher will also interview the most senior extension officers in the district so as to obtain detailed information about womens' extension projects.

#### **1.6.4 DATA COLLECTION**

Due to the high rate of illiteracy among women of this area, interviews shall be conducted through semi-structured questions by the researcher together with one research assistant from each ward.

Data shall be gathered through focus group discussions because this will permit more effective articulation than individual interviews due to the plurality of ideas.

It is also assumed that through focus group discussion women will have maximum opportunity for free expression and to give suggestions.



The researcher will use the survey method with systematic questions to womens' groups so as to find out about their opinions, attitudes, and behaviour which occurs in their projects. Those details shall be helpful for the researcher to understand what is going on in womens' projects and details obtained shall also provide clues as well as pointers to other layers of reality.

#### **1.6.5 DATA ANALYSIS**

For data analysis the researcher will examine, categorise, compare, synthesise and evaluate data so as to move from vague raw ideas towards a comprehensive analysis. Data shall be analysed through the use of the computer i.e. Excel package with the aim of drawing tables, graphs and other diagrams.

#### **1.7 DEFINITION OF TERMS**

In most cases clarity and precision in the use of concepts is achieved by definitions. In this study some concepts shall be defined operationally so that they don't mean different things to different people. These concepts include extension, extension work, agricultural extension, development, programme, project, sustainable development, credit, assessment as well as gender.

##### **1.7.1 EXTENSION**

In this study extension will refer to the transfer of knowledge from its source to those who require to use it and the increase or extension of the application of improved methods which result from that knowledge.

Through extension people are helped to make decisions by choosing from alternative solutions to their problems.

### **1.7.2 EXTENSION WORK**

Extension work is about awakening the desire for technical, economic and social change as well as teaching of practical and managerial skills and can best be achieved through group discussion, practical demonstration and participation.

### **1.7.3 AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION**

Agricultural extension means assistance to farmers to help them identify and analyse their production problems and to become aware of the opportunities for improvement.

### **1.7.4 DEVELOPMENT**

In this study development will imply change. It will be referring to the enlargement of common achievements by the emergence of new functions or the more adequate performance of old functions in more accurate ways. It is anything that advances an individual through qualitative transformation of his / her immediate environment, a transformation of which the main purpose is to provide him / her with a better standard of living in economic and human terms.

### **1.7.5 PROGRAMME**

The term programme refers to related and mutually supportive activities which are not seen as discreet projects but can aggregate into a programme. A programme deals with a much larger area of activity and has many facets.

### **1.7.6 PROJECT**

A project is a single grass-root or micro- level attempt at bringing about a specific type of change in an area like a village or a group of villagers.

### **1.7.7 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Sustainable development refers to a situation in which development doesn't decrease over time. It is a strategy which manages all assets , natural, human and financial resources for increasing long - term well being.

### **1.7.8 ASSESSMENT**

Assessment is the examination of what is happening in womens' agricultural extension projects , what may occur in future or what might be needed in order to achieve desired ends.

### **1.7.9 CREDIT**

Credit means a loan made either through the transfer of cash with the promise for future repayment or more commonly through the transfer of goods ( farm inputs ) to be paid for after harvest.

### **1.7.10 GENDER**

The term gender will be referring to the qualitative and interdependent character of womens' and mens' positions in the society. It is about differences between men and women without strictly biological connotations, but is related to the rules, traditions and social relationships in the societies and cultures which together determine what is feminine and what is masculine. This basically means the set of qualities and behaviours that are expected from the female or male by their society.

## 1.8 VALUE OF THE STUDY

In almost every society women are the first to suffer when crops fail and gender statistics on living conditions and the status of well being also shows that hunger and poverty has a disproportionate effect on women.

Assessing womens'access to opportunities and resources should therefore be the responsibility of the society as a whole and strengthening the autonomy of women should be the key factor in the work to alleviate poverty. Women are also perceived as an important force in development and without their active and effective participation ,economic and social development would be difficult to achieve.

The advancement of women is assumed to be the necessary component of development as well as their cooperation. There is a dire need for the utilisation of their potential as a means to improve the quality of development as a whole.

It is thus important to ensure full participation of women in the *development process as a whole*. It can be assumed that whatever is done by women will have an impact on most projects whether or not women are considered explicitly in their design and implementation.

This study will hopefully assist in the improvement of the definition of general project objectives, assess how they are related to womens' involvement with the project and also anticipate the effect of that particular project on women.

The assessment of womens' extension projects will also provide objective data which shall serve as an aid to decision making in addressing the current situation and will also aid in the planning and implementation of appropriate extension in targeting programmes that involve women in the management of agricultural extension projects.

Through this study it is believed that training needs for both project participants and extension officers shall be revealed. Women account for the greater percentage of the productivity of developing countries , but the impact of development on women and their roles in the development process have not been fully assessed and evaluated.

Meaningful participatory administration will be strengthened at all stages of the project through the development of an ongoing monitoring and evaluation process directed at project improvements.

In addition to assisting in the planning of more appropriate effective and valuable projects, the study will contribute to the promotion of dialogue and information exchange between government departments, NGOs, CBOs , research institutes ,development agencies and all development actors operating in the Simdlangentsha district.

## **1.9 ORGANISATION OF THE STUDY**

<b>Chapter One</b>	<b>: Introduction</b>
<b>Chapter Two</b>	<b>: Literature Review</b>
<b>Chapter Three</b>	<b>: Research Design and Methodology</b>
<b>Chapter Four</b>	<b>: Findings</b>
<b>Chapter Five</b>	<b>: Conclusion</b>
	<b>Bibliography</b>
	<b>Appendices</b>

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 INTRODUCTION**

In contemporary development literature it is perceived that womens' contribution to development has been underestimated and sometimes overlooked as a result of inherited biases built into the Western models of extension services used in South Africa.

Vast amounts of literature reveal that women have been excluded from extension work because of their historically unrecognised, unsupported involvement in agriculture. In all extension work it is however recognised that women have an important contribution to make in improving living conditions in their homes and in the community as a whole thereby promoting sustainable rural development.

The nature and scope of the problem under study has been indicated in the preceding chapter.

This chapter will however give a theoretical background which will serve as a frame of reference for the research. In this chapter some key concepts shall be presented and discussed in the context of the present study. These concepts are chosen because they are believed to be of utmost importance.

They will enable one to have a clear understanding of:

- \* what extension is.
- \* how extension projects for women are administered and what impact they have in their livelihoods.
- \* which components of extension models could be modified so as to identify successful means of reaching women.
- \* how extension work can span the gender gap and increase productivity for women farmers who have previously been bypassed by traditional extension systems.

## **2.2 KEY CONCEPTS**

The following key concepts shall be discussed in detail in view of their relevance to the study.

### **2.2.1 EXTENSION**

There are two main views on extension namely, extension in general and agricultural extension in particular. Initially the term extension was used in relation to adult education and was not concerned with agriculture but was seen as part of the effort to achieve a balanced social and economic development of rural areas ( Adams, 1982 :1 ).

Agricultural extension has come up as the means for non- formal education for the farming community.



According to Adams ( 1982 :1 ) agricultural extension is the means of assistance utilised by farmers so as to help them to identify and analyse their production problems and become aware of the opportunities for advancement.

Agricultural extension is viewed as an evolution of the advisory service regarded as a form of community development with an agricultural bias and an educational approach to the problems of rural communities. As extension is concerned with the whole family, programmes and projects have to cater for the needs and interests of different members of the community. For the purpose of this study the focus will be on women because it is felt that this group does present particular problems for extension which could be useful to identify.

Women are perceived to be having an important role to play in extension although technological developments often benefit the tasks and the crops to which mens' attention is directed rather than those associated with women. It is worth mentioning that women have to be fully involved in agricultural extension because they are in a daily battle for survival.

For this to happen local agricultural, ecological and administrative considerations should be taken into account and involvement of extension at all levels is required ( Benor and Baxter, 1984 : 17 ). There is therefore increased pressure on extension and research to focus more effectively on the tasks that are performed by women.

### 2.2.2 GENDER

Gender is a social phenomenon which is socially constructed and it refers to the differences between men and women but without strictly biological connotations. In agricultural extension projects gender division of labour is a factor which plays a role in the production process.

For this study the term “ gender analysis “ will be used to define the analysis of the interaction of gender variables with agricultural extension project goals and activities.

Gender is perceived to be a more powerful analytical concept than female ( Rivera and Schram, 1987:176 ). It will reveal gender patterns in extension activities and will be the key to identifying subsequent gender effects.

Gender awareness in extension and rural development is of utmost importance as it builds on the decade to advocate that development processes ignore women at their cost.

Governments and other agencies in some other developing countries have shown that neglecting women is wasteful of scarce resources whereas supporting them as independent producers could be a more efficient management of those resources . This study is suggesting that those who are concerned with rural development need to examine more closely whether rural women are yet in focus.

A question one has to ask him / herself is “ *what evidence do we have that rural extension is striking the balance between policy and practice in reaching rural women effectively ?*”.

### **2.2.3 DEVELOPMENT**

Development is viewed as the process of empowering and enabling people to articulate and assert their urges and thinking. It rests on the element of co-operation and mutual help. It is planned social change where concepts of social creativity, self-reliance, institutional development, capability for development of broader operations as well as solidarity are emphasised for development of wider societies as it is for grass-root development. It is the process which results in some type of change or improvement to existing situation.

Development is concerned with planning for and by people where peoples' direct involvement in the process of planning and development is highly emphasised.

This concept is deemed necessary for this study because women are key actors in development therefore there is a need to assess the specific implications of development to women.

### **2.2.4 WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT**

It is worth mentioning that women are now being discovered to be of utmost importance in development and development agencies are starting special projects for women all over the place. At the same time the assumptions that development planners make about women in society are never stated, but are all the more powerful for that reason.

It is however important to recognise that developments among Third World women in the past decade have not occurred in isolation.

Although many experiences of such womens' development projects are unique because of their being specific to women, they however have occurred within a wider context in which the role of development in the Third World generally has undergone fundamental changes.

Vast amounts of literature reveal that women are making an increasingly important contribution in the search for solutions to the problems facing South Africa not only in their traditional areas of family, education, community service and health care but in the community and the economy at large.

Van der Vyver , McLachlan and du Toit ( 1992 : 98 ) argue that “ in South Africa studies and discussions on the role of women have in the past neglected the integration of women in the mainstream development . Even in the current situation it is imperative to highlight that people at grass-root level especially women are rarely involved in the planning of programmes.. Women are still not consulted or informed about programmes planned for them and as a result they do not recognise the existence of such programmes as well as their vitality, efficiency, relevance and effectiveness. This is because authorities are production oriented and often want concrete results and in such cases the human factor plays the second fiddle. In addition to that authorities have been inclined to decide on their own what the needs of women are and how they should be met through top-down need identification.”It is only in recent years that an integrated approach has been followed.

In a certain sense Momsen ( 1993 : 98 ) would reveal the same idea when she remarks that research on women in the Third World countries is now challenging the most fundamental assumptions of international development, add a gender dimension to the study of development process and demand a new theoretical approach.

Momsen ( 1993 :13 ) insists that “ the early model of integration based on the belief that women should be brought into the existing modes of benevolent development without a major restructuring of the process of development has been the object of much feminist critique.

The alternative vision recently put forward of development with women demands not just a bigger piece of someone else’s pie, but a whole new dish prepared, baked and distributed equally”.

According to Cloud ( 1985 : 13 ) vast amounts of literature reveal that the development planning has failed to recognise fully or systematically the contribution made by women to the development process or the effects of development on women. This failure has consequently limited development efforts and effects.

However considering the fact that women have been excluded by past development efforts, policies have been established to cater for the integration of women in the development efforts.

This is believed to be the same with South Africa and such a situation therefore calls for increased attention to the integration of women into the development process and to ensure that this is practical in the current situation.

### **2.2.5 WOMEN AND EXTENSION**

Extension projects cover a wide range of differing activities which differ in scope and purpose and they are viewed as primary vehicles used by governments and international agencies to channel resources in the development process .

Cloud ( 1985: 4 ) is of the opinion that what women do will have an impact on most projects whether they are explicitly involved in the design and implementation of those projects or not. Similarly , most extension projects will have an effect on womens' lives.

I am in agreement with Oakley and Garforth ( 1985 : 121 ) that “agricultural extension service often relates more specifically to farmers usually men and their various problems in the utilisation and management of farm resources”.

Conversely non - agricultural extension programmes are frequently more *directed towards women and seek to improve the use of resources within the home and the family.*

With increasing frequency a new dimension and a new set of questions have been added to this discussion.

This discussion will describe womens' participation in developing countries' agriculture, analyse womens' interaction with agricultural extension projects and propose which components of traditional extension models could be modified to identify successful means for reaching women farmers thereby increasing agricultural activities.

Rivera and Schram ( 1987 :175 ) state that “ agricultural extension refers to an organised non- formal educational activity usually supported or operated by the government to improve the productivity and welfare of rural people”.

“This discourse is confined to agricultural extension projects simply because women play a key role in agricultural production and there is now increased pressure on extension and research services to focus more effectively on women projects. In view of the orientation of most extension and research services priority should be given to small projects in which women-oriented extension methods are used not only to disseminate information but also to gather it so that extension services can learn more about specific problems women face” ( Roberts 1983 : 97 ).

In addition to any agricultural extension projects designed for rural women , it is therefore important for agricultural extension to work with women to bring them the support, knowledge and skills they need to improve their activities.

Far too many of the much publicised womens' projects are little more than the old home economics projects, perhaps with a token amount of poultry keeping and appropriate technology attached to make it look more relevant to rural women. This is also the situation with the majority of womens' projects which dominate the development sphere in rural areas especially in the Ministry of Agriculture , Welfare, Health and some other NGOs and CBOs.

However a more sympathetic approach towards rural women , showing understanding of their need to earn money is also starting to emerge. It is now becoming a standard practice in some agencies to provide at least an element of income- earning activity in new projects for women .Income generating projects may be regarded as a special form of multiple service programme ,with a credit component that target women.

It is however so unfortunate that the performance of many such programmes have been disappointing such that the majority of development workers view income generating projects for women with scepticism.

#### **2.2.6 WOMENS' PARTICIPATION IN AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION**

Mayoux ( 1988 : 9 ) remarks that female participation in agricultural activities varies but in some areas it is very high because women play an important role in processing of agricultural produce.



“Some studies have revealed that women constitute the highest percentage of the agricultural labour force in developing countries and female participation rate in the agricultural labour force is highest in Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and the Caribbean and lowest in Latin America” ( Momsen , 1991 : 47 ) .

This is also true for South Africa where women perform much of the farm work This is because there are many women who are farmers in their own right either because there is no man living with the family throughout the year or because women in some societies have their own land and their own crops for which they are responsible. Even where the head of the household is a man, women may do more than half the farm work ( Oakley and Garforth 1985 :121 ) .

Rivera and Schram ( 1987:176 ) believe that “ arguments for expanding womens’ access to agricultural extension has to begin with examination of female participation in agriculturally productive activities and also their influence in farm and household decision- making .

Besides the well documented contribution by women to visible agricultural tasks there is considerable input by women into agricultural decision-making especially in cases where women managed farms.

These include de facto systems where men are away for a period of time and women manage the farm in their absence and de jure situations of widowed, divorced, abandoned or never married women. These numbers are significantly increasing in rural areas Rivera and Schram,1987 :179 ) .

A study conducted on Women in Agricultural Development project by Spring reveals that women are fully involved in almost all aspects of farming and are becoming full -time farmers but they are handicapped by delivery services in spite of their being interested in agricultural development.

Womens' participation in farm work is viewed to be considerably more than is reflected in regionwide statistics and their involvement in farm related activities and tasks may also be much higher. Cloud (1986 ) in Merha (1995 : 388 ) pronounces that “ the Economic Commission for Africa estimates that women in Africa contribute on average 70 per cent of labour in food production , 100 per cent in food processing and 50 per cent in animal husbandry .” Official rates of female participation in the agricultural labour force in Asian countries tend to be lower than for Africa and considerably lower for Latin America.

Once again commonly held perceptions among government and development personnel and regionwide official statistics understate womens' contributions. Examinations of actual tasks performed by women also show more intensive participation in farm labour than is implied by official statistics and widely held beliefs. When households headed by women are considered , total female participation in agriculture turns out to be even higher in all developing regions.

It is important to consider the role of headship because available data show that female headship is relatively high and is still increasing in many places. This female headship can occur as a result of death ,divorce, separation and increasingly male migration.” In Tunisia for instance, womens’ participation in agriculture more than doubled between 1970 and 1985 because of male migration from rural areas that left women as effective household heads as they become fully responsible for farm production and management” ( Merha ,1995 : 390 ).

While similarities have existed between these countries and South Africa for the past years the situation has changed recently due to the decreased labour absorption capacity resulting in the reduction of male migration even though rural women still reveal a high level of participation in agricultural labour.

According to Mayoux ( 1988 : 4 ) the literature available on women and cooperatives and conference papers indicates that womens’ participation in certain types of cooperatives is very high like in female skill activities, handicrafts, bakery and fish marketing.

There are some successful women - only cooperatives where women have been able to earn an income and to develop management and other skills. High levels of female participation were also reported for consumer, thrift and credit cooperatives simply because these tend to be concentrated in industries and institutions which have large semi-skilled and unskilled labour forces , most of whom are women.

On the contrary in agricultural production and marketing cooperatives, womens' participation as members is very low and at management level it is absolutely non- existent. Evans reporting about the Phalombe Rural Development projects in Malawi said “ on examining the reasons for womens' low participation in agricultural extension activities women confirmed that because the content of agricultural meetings was not related to them or their problems which were primarily associated with food production , they thought that groups were for commercial male farmers growing cash crops like cotton, tobacco and hybrid maize”.

Women also confirmed that their husbands rarely passed the advice to them or if they did, women could not always understand it and they said it was not related to them. On the other hand husbands as well as some leaders in the village did not see the importance of womens' participation in agricultural meetings and did not encouraged them to attend ( Evans, 1986 : 23 ).

In a certain sense Benor and Baxtor ( 1984 : 172 ) offer a different view by stating that many women are solely responsible for the operation and management of farm.

In most societies there are few major agricultural operations in which women do not participate as decision makers especially those who are in decision making roles . Even in circumstances where gender division of labour may allocate certain tasks to men and some to women, it still becomes clear that women participate in a broad range of agricultural activities.

They take part on decisions on what crops to grow and which foods to eat, what seeds and planting stock should be selected, and how production activities like seed selection, planting, weeding, fertilizing, plant protection and harvesting itself should be organised and undertaken. Women also have an active role in the storage and processing of farm products and, in some areas in land preparation. Even where their role in field crops may be limited, women often have sole care for kitchen gardens and are responsible for certain aspects of animal husbandry, particularly for the feeding and care of animals like poultry, sheep, goats and cattle.

### **2.2.7 GENDER ISSUES IN AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION**

As agriculture has developed it is possible to recognise male and female farming systems. Over the past years people have come to realise that women play an integral part in African agriculture and that they produced a high proportion of its food.

It is surprising however to note that when development agencies deal with Sub-Saharan Africa most of their policies and programmes overlook the real roles played by these women as well as the contribution they are ready and eager to make in solving the food crisis in their region. Some factors which prevent women from increasing their agricultural production is related to gender division of labour i.e. the way cultural concepts and traditions view what work is, under what relationships it is performed and who does it.

Others are derived from womens' access to resources and the effects of development planning on the division of labor in the farming household. Ostergaard (1992 : 42 ) indicates three general ways in which womens' agricultural production is impeded by gender issues :

First ,women are never given opportunities to increase their agricultural production because sex stereotyping is affecting development planning at local, regional, national and international levels.

Second , womens' claims to resources for independent farming have diminished with commoditisation and commercialisation due to the way gender relations organise access to resources.

Third , womens' production is affected by conflicts between male and female household members over the use of each other's labour and over their respective rights to consumption goods and income produce within the household.

Momsen (1991:51 ) is of the opinion that "women have been excluded from agricultural methods because Western experts have assumed the existence of a pattern of responsibility for agriculture that is similar to that of their own societies in which men are given the main agricultural development projects."

Even when they are included in the development projects , women are unable to obtain new technological inputs because womens' projects are usually accorded low status than those of men.

In view of the orientation of most extension services it is assumed that there is a widespread discrimination against women in extension services and agricultural innovation.

Staudt in her research in Western Kenya found that women have few agricultural extension services directed at them but are mainly the recipients of home economics extension. She also noted that very few women are contacted by agricultural services as the staff of agricultural extension services is overwhelmingly male ( Ostergaard , 1991 : 45 ). In some other countries it is even difficult sociologically for a male dominated extension service to deal with farm women.

It is however assumed that traditional home economics projects still prevail as an essential component of womens' development. Those projects however focus their services on nutrition, baking,cooking, vegetable production for food security and sewing, savings clubs, handicrafts and candle making for income generation ( Kwa-Zulu Natal Department of Agriculture ,1996 : 28 ).

While these specific projects are more likely to reach women they have a home economics instead of an agricultural orientation (Rivera and Schram, 1987:188) and they are perceived to divert attention from the more critical issue of womens' role in agricultural production. For the past decade there has been a criticism of these programmes. They have been questioned regarding their relevance,usefulness and appropriateness to rural womens' roles in relation to existing needs in their socio-economic,cultural and political environment.

They are perceived to be guided by Western frameworks, mission statements and philosophies, goals and objectives, content and materials and do not interpret or reflect African dimensions.

A major difficulty which faces many extension services and almost equally so the department of agriculture is that it is male dominated as most extension agents are men and they perhaps lack a basic understanding of womens' positions in the society. Not only may it be difficult sociologically for a male dominated extension service to deal professionally with farm women but it is most likely that its interests aptitudes and exposures are directed to farm operations performed by men.

In the absence of decision to handle production interest of farm women, agricultural production recommendations and research activities are likely to concentrate on activities that are performed by men.

Even if significant activities performed and decided upon largely by women may be ignored in the production recommendations that research and extension formulate but without useful technical advise on women-oriented production activities, extension is unable to serve the technological requirements of farm women (Benor and Baxter, 1984:173).

In consideration of the notion of womens' extension projects, Oakley and Garforth ( 1985 :123 ) emphasise the point that it is important for the extension agent to try to understand why there is often so little contact between his service and rural women and should begin by analysing the situation and understanding obstacles that prevent women from becoming more involved in extension activities so that he should take them into consideration when planning activities.



Rodgers (1980 : 98) stresses the point that evaluation is non- existent for most womens' extension projects whether in home economics or in other approaches being developed .

The fact that rural women do not respond enthusiastically to home economics projects particularly in comparison with other kinds of projects is occasionally recognised ,for instance, in Bolivia where projects stress traditional skills like sewing, cooking and flower arrangement the courses were found to be incompatible with womens' productive work. What this seems to indicate is that either a home economics project is irrelevant and therefore has negligible impact, or if it does have an effect , this can be economically and socially disruptive.

Rodgers also continues by saying that "as long as womens' projects are set up in apparent competition to the mainstream of economic development projects, they will remain fringe operations with little prospects of making any real impact".

Home economists in the FAO are however well aware of the problem as it relates to their projects where womens' issues are given low priority in terms of funds as well as prestige and are the first to be cut if the agency involved hits the financial crisis.

On the other hand it can be said that constraints under which female farmers have to operate as well as their multiple roles in the community are nowadays recognised in extension projects.

It is therefore important that the emphasis should continue to fall on voluntary and self-help projects where more can be accomplished with limited resources (van der Vyver, McLachlan and Du Toit, 1992 : 9 ).

Concern over low productivity in agriculture and levels of poverty amongst farm labourers in farming communities have led to increasing focus on communities and women in such environments.

In extension projects the key issue is that of participation for empowerment to capacity-building through increasing project effectiveness to improving project efficiency and finally , to project cost-sharing. Since women accept primary responsibility for child-bearing and rearing ,they are affected most by extension projects.

This then calls for their involvement in planning and decision-making as well as in the implementation and management of projects that relate particularly to their lives. As women are having particular responsibility for the welfare of the household, they are more aware of the needs of infrastructure and services and are more aware of the needs and the successes of the projects that improve living conditions. The exclusion of women can therefore negatively affect the outcome of the project while their active involvement can help its success.

I agree with Moser ( 1993 : 102 ) in her view that participation of women in agricultural extension projects can stimulate their participation in other spheres of life. Through active participation in agricultural extension projects women may be encouraged to participate fully in the community.

It has also been realised that participation in projects is an important mechanism to overcome apathy and lack of confidence and can make women visible in the community although it is observed that in some other parts of South Africa especially in rural areas women are still not visible and still lack confidence in spite of their involvement in extension projects.

According to Savile (1965 : 26 ) women play a crucial role in all extension work where they normally organise themselves so that they are able to play *their part effectively and work in an orderly and carefully planned manner.*

Oakley and Garforth (1985 ) contend that “ the use of womens’ groups in extension has become more common over the past decade and has shown the usefulness in the formation of extension groups and how these groups can support extension activity. In extension, womens’ groups are perceived to offer a more reflective learning environment in which each individual can listen, discuss and decide upon her involvement in the extension activity.

Vast amounts of literature confirm womens’ groups in extension as being highly efficient.

Research has also shown that women are much more keen to take initiative and to make decisions in projects when there is no men involved as opposed to the situation when they are mixed with men.

Without useful technical advice on women-oriented production activities, extension is therefore unable to serve the technological requirements of farm women.

As the first step to begin with to serve farm women Bernor and Baxtor (1984: 173) say “ the managers of the agricultural extension service should determine the key agricultural production activities in which women have a decision-making role and review whether such activities are adequately covered by extension field activities and recommendations and particular attention should be given to those activities performed exclusively by women”

Mayoux (1988 :11 ) is of the opinion that because of womens' lack of access to resources and education and partly because of discrimination within male bureaucracies , women are disadvantaged in their access to development resources like credit, training and new technology. This therefore affects their ability to increase their incomes leading to situations whereby women are largely excluded from the benefits of development, whilst at the same time being frequently affected by the changes which development brings.

According to Elabour- Idemudia (1991 ) as cited by Merha (1991: 396 ) data from numerous developing countries show that government extension services are seldom available to women.

A survey in Nigeria for instance, revealed that extension agents visited just 10 percent of women farmers every week whereas 70 per cent of the men were visited every week.

Kouhene reported that gender statistics on living and status of well-being had shown that hunger and poverty had a disproportionate effect on women as they are not only the first to suffer in emergencies but account for most of the world's 800 million hungry poor as well ( Second Committee - 11 - Press Release GA/ EF/2783 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting 3 November 1997 ).

## **2. 2.8 WOMENS' ACCESS TO RESOURCES**

Like many women in developed nations those in developing countries have limited or no access to resources.

Studies have shown that while men were increasingly drawn into the modernising sector of agriculture, women stayed in subsistence agriculture with no access to credits, training and technology.

It is therefore of particular concern to view the access that women have to resources for carrying out their activities and the command they have over the benefits that derive from these activities (Cloud ,1985 : 7 ). By focusing on both resources and benefits,one obtains an accurate assessment of the relative power of women over resources and can utilise this knowledge to analyse probable interaction of women with projects and its likely to have an effect on them.

### **2.2.8.1 ACCESS TO LAND**

Development projects have in the past channeled inputs to male household heads on the assumption that they control the land,labour,crops and finances.

In some studies women's access to land has shown to be the critical constraint to crop production. Of all the resources necessary for increased food production, the most important is land.

In terms of agricultural extension projects and programmes, control of land acquires importance not only in terms of its own right, but as a security for credit and often as providing the criterion for people's access to inputs such as agricultural extension. Without land, people especially women lose their security and are reduced to a state of dependence on those with land. Similarly, control of land use and its products is of critical importance to women.

In some other countries research has shown that women have important rights to land as well as to crops grown on it (Rodgers, 1980:123). The Western concept of outright ownership by a single individual as the basis for land tenure has had the effect of suppressing the practice of qualified rights to land and other resources in which women participate.

Since colonial development, planners have been extremely reluctant to recognise women as holding rights to land and control over its use were almost invariably ascribed to men. It can be said however that the changing definitions as to the rights over land and other resources are of crucial importance to women and to overall development (Rodgers, 1980:15).

A number of cases have been observed where Esther Boserup noted that European colonial administration instituted land reforms which eliminated land rights most conspicuously of predominantly female farming societies.

The Land Reform Research Program largely concentrates on the differential needs for land between men and women with only limited focus on the crucial question of the relations of power that determine womens' participation in access to control over land and other resources.

Jiggins as cited by Gallin, Aronoff and Ferguson ( 1989 :32 ) expresses the opinion that in most parts of the industrial world the livelihood in poor rural households remains directly or indirectly land based and as female -headed households increase, fresh consideration is being given to the problems surrounding womens' use of land, the crucial one being the problem of access to land resources and land based opportunity.

The matter is even larger than simply a question of womens' access to land since possession of land title or formal tenurial rights is usually tied to access, to production inputs including capital, credit and marketing services. Without formal rights women tend to be trapped in low productivity. As a social category women are evidently interested in land and they see access to land as central to their role in social production.

However in her address during the annual general meeting of Women Portfolio Holdings, the Minister for agriculture and Land Affairs Ms Thoko Didiza said “ the dream of contributing to agriculture has already been realised by women in certain communities who have benefitted from our land reform program and some of them have taken the initiative and made use of small plots available to them for agricultural purposes with remarkable results” (Agricultural News , 4 September 2000 . No. 18 ).

Also with the emergence of individual ownership of land , women have begun to acquire land through purchase , partition of family property and outright grant. This therefore gives few women farmers security of tenure and makes long- term investment and improvements of the land feasible (Walker,1988:26).

#### **2.2.8.2 ACCESS TO CREDIT**

Credit availability and improving access to other productive assets and inputs are all vitally important for improving farmer productivity and returns. Intra household analysis reveals that while women within the low income household contribute to food production, they are disadvantaged in the distribution of resources and face even less favourable terms of access to financial resource.

Rather than seeking to meet household basic needs directly through targeting feeding programs, it is decided that the more sustainable option would be to improve the productivity of women and their ability to purchase the direct means of meeting their needs through the provision of credit.

It is quite clear that conventional financial institutions have failed to deliver credit to poor people in general and to women in particular.



Available data shows that womens' access to agricultural credit is extremely limited. In India for example it is estimated at around 10 per cent or less. In the Kakamega district of Kenya where 40 per cent of farms were managed by women , it was found that 99 per cent of women knew nothing about extension service credit programme and no women manager had ever obtained a loan(Merha,1995:396).

Walker (1988 :26 ) is of the opinion that since credit programs require land or other wealth as collateral , women often fail to qualify because they don't have legal rights to land on which they work.

Added to that, banks usually require that entrepreneurs show proof of substantial assets as collateral for obtaining the requisite financing for projects. Lack of credit also makes it impossible for women to benefit from available technology.

The main difficulty facing women as small farmers in obtaining institutional credit is the perception that they are risky borrowers. Donors also tended to give priority to large scale infrastructure projects such as dams, hydro-power or electricity on the basis that their impact will trickle down to reach the poor.

Such projects although generally assisting the country's development were dominated by males and could rarely meet womens' needs.

The banks are also reluctant to lend because the costs of making numerous small loans are relatively high. Women are also unable to obtain loans from agricultural cooperatives whose membership is generally dominated by men. In addition credit funds frequently come as part of packages aimed at the improvement of particular cash crops, generally grown by men.

This leaves women with no option but to borrow from friends and relatives in informal markets where terms and conditions are more flexible and collateral is not required. The disadvantage of this is however the high cost of borrowing which drives down the profitability of potential investments and may therefore constrain women farmers' incentive to invest (Merha, 1995 : 396 ).

### **2.2. 8.3 ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY**

According to Merha ( 1995 : 397 ) even though women have been neglected by development programmes, one might expect that they would have benefitted from the tremendous improvements in agricultural technology that has occurred.

The limited evidence available on the gender effects of technological change suggest that while rural women derived some gains from technology they did not benefit or they have even suffered losses.

On the other hand women could not sometimes benefit because new technology was not introduced to them, the notion being that women were not really responsible for farming.

Certain technologies were introduced to male farmers even though women were actually primarily responsible for particular crop or task affected. In such cases, women's own production and income were undermined ( Merha, 1995 :398 ). In other instances women are unable to benefit appropriately from technological change because of the constraints they face in production.

Some studies indicate that women farmers are more reluctant to adopt new technologies but close examination shows that this is because technologies were often inappropriate for the crops women produce or the tasks they perform. When the technology is appropriate, women seem to adopt it readily. In some cases evidence have shown that women are more responsive than men to improved incentives ( Merha , 1995 : 396 ).

Rodgers ( 1980 : 173 ) views the problem as that where labour -saving technologies are introduced which apply to women's work , they have been handed over to male control. *Even more serious for women is their lack of capital for purchasing household technology.*

Rural women work long hours a day in trying to provide their families with basic needs. It is assumed that the technological improvements for getting water , fuel and of milling grain are special needs, but few measures have been taken to ease women's domestic responsibilities, including food production (Walker 1988:26).

### **2.2.9 THE VALUE OF WOMENS' WORK**

In most cases it is difficult to estimate accurately the share of farm output and income generated by women because large scale national and agricultural surveys do not generally obtain gender desegregated income, production or consumption data. Even when information is available it tends to underestimate womens' share because much of their work is unpaid. A larger proportion of female than male labour goes into subsistence production or is performed as part of a joint or family enterprise and is unpaid ( Merha, 1995: 90).

Rodgers ( 1980 : 152 ) states that women are relegated to the unpaid family labour category which is very inadequately measured. Their non - farm work is strenuous, takes enormous amount of time and is absolutely essential to the survival of the family concerned.

In order to produce food in an edible form an enormous amount of time is involved after harvest and it includes a series of processes which are performed by women but the total amount of subsistence work done by women is not recorded in most studies of the labour force or in manpower studies and planning.

The recognition of womens' work as essential to subsistence farming and as an increasingly critical factor in agricultural production is almost completely lacking from the work of development planners

It is important to bear in mind the significant contribution which the existing womens' groups of various kinds can make to development.

In many areas women have always worked communally or had their own groups for activities such as revolving credit and they are a strong force behind self-help schemes ( Rodgers ,1980 : 105 ).

The essence of empowering women through agricultural extension projects is to ascertain what women actually want and do within the society and to provide them with opportunities, skills and resources to enhance their participation.

Also when new opportunities are available, they have to be made available to women and a women-sensitive programme would design specific strategies to involve women. It can be said that the constraints under which female farmers have to operate , as well as their multiple roles in the community are nowadays recognised in all development projects.

The National Department of Agriculture for instance has introduced the Female Farmer Competition with the aim of recognising tangibly the role that women play in ensuring food security in the country while contributing to the South African economy. In the first female farmer of the year competition held in 1999, nine outstanding women were honoured for their contribution to agriculture.

Three womens' groups also received awards. This therefore gave concrete expression to the aim of the National Department of Agriculture by recognising womens' contribution and increasing their visibility ( National Department of Agriculture , 2000 : 1 ).

It is thus evident that with the South African governments' incentives and moral support to women farmers as indicated in the foregoing paragraph, women will emerge not only as home economics recipients but also as significant role players in policy making relating to agriculture in this country.

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **3. RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 INTRODUCTION**

This chapter explains about the methodology which the researcher utilised in conducting the study.

Methodology refers to the study, the description, the explanation as well as the justification of methods employed and followed. According to Nachmias and Nachmias ( 1992 :14 ) methodology is a system of explicit rules and procedures on which research is based and these rules and procedures are constantly being improved.

#### **3.2 NEGOTIATING ENTRY INTO THE COMMUNITY**

To gain entry into the community, the researcher first contacted the office of agriculture operating in the district of Simdlangentsha. As the researcher is also working there she did not encounter any problems in doing so. She thereafter contacted the chairman of the Regional Authority who is one of the Amakhosi of the area and is viewed as the gatekeeper in relation to the study .She openly revealed the research project as she believed that the chairperson would not limit or inhibit the research. She was then granted permission to go ahead.

From there she discussed the matter with various Amakhosi of the district as well as members of the district development committee.

### **3.3 BUILDING RAPPORT**

Building rapport is crucial for it helps the researcher to understand members and learn how to think and act within their perspective. The researcher had to build rapport by becoming conscious of the presentation of herself in the field by showing friendly relationships and respect to respondents so as to create a setting of cooperation, empathy and collaboration.

### **3.4 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This section includes the discussion on research design, the sample the population, data collection as well as analysis.

### **3.5 RESEARCH DESIGN**

According to Nachmias and Nachmias ( 1992 : 97 ) the research design is the programme that guides the investigator in the process of collecting, analysing, and interpreting observations.

It is a logical model of proof that allows the researcher to find out whether obtained interpretations can be generalised to larger populations. For this study the researcher used the qualitative as well as the quantitative type of research because she believed that the qualitative method could describe reality in accurate verbal terms. Qualitative research was also chosen because it looks into complexes and processes and stresses the importance of context setting and subject frame of references as the researcher was aiming at defining the situation in which womens' groups find themselves, so the method could enable the investigator to use a lot of insight and understanding. Quantitative method could help the researcher to use figures to present some kind of data easily.



The researcher used the survey method with systematic questions to womens' groups with the aim of finding out about their opinions, attitudes and behaviours that occur in their projects.

Those details could help the researcher to understand what is going on in womens' projects and had to provide some clues and pointers to other layers of realities thus assisting in the assessment of the efficiency of existing extension projects.

Some key informants as well as agricultural technicians were interviewed for the researcher believed that they have some detailed information about womens' extension projects in the district.

Face to face interviews were conducted through semi-structured questionnaires to ensure flexibility and at the same time the researcher could be able to make some observations and use her own probe.

One other design used was the historical design where the researcher consulted some sources in which past information about womens' clubs have been recorded as she believed that historical research design is not so much concerned with the collection of new information, but is also concerned with explanations or interpretations of information that is already known.

Sources consulted included agricultural annual reports, agricultural statistical reports, club registers as well as some project documents kept by the district office of agriculture.

### **3.6 THE SAMPLE**

The sample is viewed as a technical device to rationalise the collection of information, to choose in an appropriate way the restricted set of objects, persons and events from which the actual information shall be drawn.

During her study the researcher used judgemental sampling method where she used her prior knowledge of womens' extension projects to draw the representative groups with the desired characteristics. The sample for this study consisted of eighteen ( 18 ) womens' groups with the average of ten ( 10 ) respondents in each group. However not all participants were involved as a result the total of 154 participants were interviewed.

Two members of the development committee and four agricultural technicians were also interviewed as key informants.

### **3.7 THE POPULATION**

The population consisted of all womens' development projects existing in the district for the period 1995 to 2000. The sampling frame was chosen from the club register kept in the district office which revealed the total of fifty - seven ( 57 ) clubs ( Department of Agriculture, Annual Report, 1998 ).

Five ( 5 ) clubs were then chosen from each of six ( 6 ) wards to make the total of thirty ( 30 ) groups. This total was then divided by ten ( 10 ) which was assumed to be the average number of womens' clubs in each tribal ward so as to arrive at three ( 3 ) which was considered to be the actual sample from each tribal ward. This led to the total of eighteen ( 18 ) groups representing the entire district.

All these tribal wards are under the Zululand Regional Service Council i.e. Regional Service Council 2. Residents from Simdlangentsha district are Zulu speaking but there is a small percentage of Swazi speaking individuals. Their relationships are tied to kinship, religious groupings, neighbourhood as well as development projects.

The target population included women - only agricultural extension projects i.e. only those that are engaged in agricultural extension projects in the tribal wards. Women-only projects were chosen to ensure that the groups are fairly homogeneous and that participants ( women ) feel more comfortable and free to express their feelings.

### **3.8 DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS**

In spite of the interview being considered as expensive and time consuming, the researcher felt that it was the most suitable and relevant tool to be used in collecting data for the study. The researcher had the same view as that of Monnette, Sullivan and DeJong ( 1994 : 177 ) that the interview could help her to motivate respondents to give more accurate and complete information and could afford an opportunity to explain questions that respondents could not understand.

For data collection , interviews were first conducted with agricultural technicians and other key informants like members of the development committee with the aim of getting their feelings about the operation, administration as well as the efficiency of womens' extension projects in the district.

From key informants interviews were then carried out with womens' groups in their respective wards. The aim of the group interview was to encourage a collective response and to identify differences of opinions and areas of consensus within the group. The researcher felt that the group discussion was less likely to be successful where group members were not reasonably homogenous as they could be inhibited and feel uncomfortable with each other if they were aware of major differences amongst them.

The group interview was also viewed as a valuable way of quickly establishing some basic common ground, information and questions for future investigation. The interview schedule consisted of questions divided into ten ( 10 ) sections. The length of the interview was thirty ( 30 ) minutes since it was conducted with groups as opposed to individuals. It consisted of both close and open-ended questions so as to encourage respondents to elaborate more on their responses.

Data was analysed through Microsoft Excel spreadsheets. This package was used to construct the graphs, tables as well as other diagrams. Making use of the computer programme was chosen purely on the basis of its ability to afford the researcher quick and accurate computation of data.

### **3.9 VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY**

To ensure validity and reliability the researcher used agricultural technicians as knowledgeable key informants as they are working with extension projects and they have done the survey in the area.

Key informants were believed to be reliable as they have been in the area for a long period of time and they have in depth knowledge about the area and the community in question. Six different communities were chosen to ensure the representation and the geographic spread of the entire community of the district. The researcher used a combination of data collection methods. She used the semi - structured interview supplemented by observations as well as consultation of some project documents with the aim of eliminating some personal biases that could stem from the single methodology.

### **3.10 LIMITATIONS**

There were some limitations that were encountered during interviews. These included poor response due to bad weather conditions. It became difficult for the researcher to access other places as the roads were not in good conditions because of heavy rains that had fallen in the area. The researcher had to leave the vehicle and walk. Again the majority of project participants were busy arranging for (Planting Without Ploughing) demonstrations and were also preparing for planting such that in some groups only 5 participants attended the interview.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **4. FINDINGS**

#### **4.1 INTRODUCTION**

Assessment of the impact of extension projects on women has been hampered in general by lack of baseline data gathering during project inception. Implementation is also constrained since accurate information on agricultural activities is often not available to guide project interventions. Very few womens' projects are monitored and assessed to determine their effectiveness and impact.( Interview with the Agricultural Technician,4 September 2000 ).

#### **4.2 DEMOGRAPHICS**

The study was carried out in the six tribal wards of Simdlangentsha District.This District falls within the Zululand Regional service council i.e. Regional Service Council 2. All the women extension projects targeted are those in the North - East Region of the Department of Agriculture.

#### **4.3 HISTORY**

Respondents were grouped according to their extension projects. All womens' groups interviewed were those actively involved in agricultural extension projects and have been in operation for the period of five ( 5 ) years i.e.during 1995-2000.Almost 80 % of these projects were initiated with the help of the extension workers and all are community based .All of womens' projects reported to be linked to the Farmers Association as well as the District Farmers Union.

#### **4.4 STATUS OF GROUPS**

The study revealed that all womens' projects had guidelines as to who could be members of their projects. All of them stipulated that membership was open only to local residents i.e. those residing within the same tribal ward. It was discovered that all the projects are registered with the Tribal Authority the Development Committee and the Department of Agriculture through the D. F. U (District Farmers Union) while the smaller percentage is registered with the Kwa-Zulu Natal Agricultural Union ( KWANALU ).

#### **4.5 FINANCIAL STATUS**

All projects had bank accounts where all the remittance is kept. These accounts were opened out of members' contributions, which on average is said to be R100.00 per member.

About 70% of the projects have received funding from various Departments like Department of Agriculture, Welfare as well as Department of Health. The amount of funding received was estimated at R 20 000.00 per project. Those funds however could not enable them to finish the projects as the researcher observed that most of them were incomplete.

Mrs. X reported that the material they received for their project was not equivalent to the amount they had requested and as a result the project could not be completed and they were still waiting for additional funds.

#### 4.6 GROUP ORGANISATION

All groups had committees with responsible portfolios. All committees were reported to consist of 5 executive members. Analysis however revealed that committees have never been changed ever since they were elected i.e. the term of office was rarely considered. Some reported that it is because they are very few like, one group of 5 members felt that there was no reason for re-elections since they are very few while other groups gave no concrete reasons.

The study also revealed that bookkeeping was not carried out in most of these projects. The reason could be that they lack the know how as well as the importance of bookkeeping. This therefore implies that there is a need for training in bookkeeping for these projects to prosper. Among project participants there are some members who have been to courses related to their activities. Those courses included sewing ( basic and advanced ), bookkeeping ,pig and poultry production, crop and vegetable production, food preservation and preparation.

It was also discovered that most of recently established womens' projects have an element of capacity building built into them in terms of institution building e.g.( formation of a group with a constitution , identification of office bearers as well as their functions, holding of meetings and recording thereof ), the acquiring of knowledge necessary for the implementation of the project and relevant skills training.



#### 4.7 GROUP ACTIVITIES

Womens' groups are engaged in a variety of extension activities. From the study it was discovered that they are involved in sewing, crocheting, handicrafts, community gardens, poultry keeping, cookery, baking, crop production and candle making.

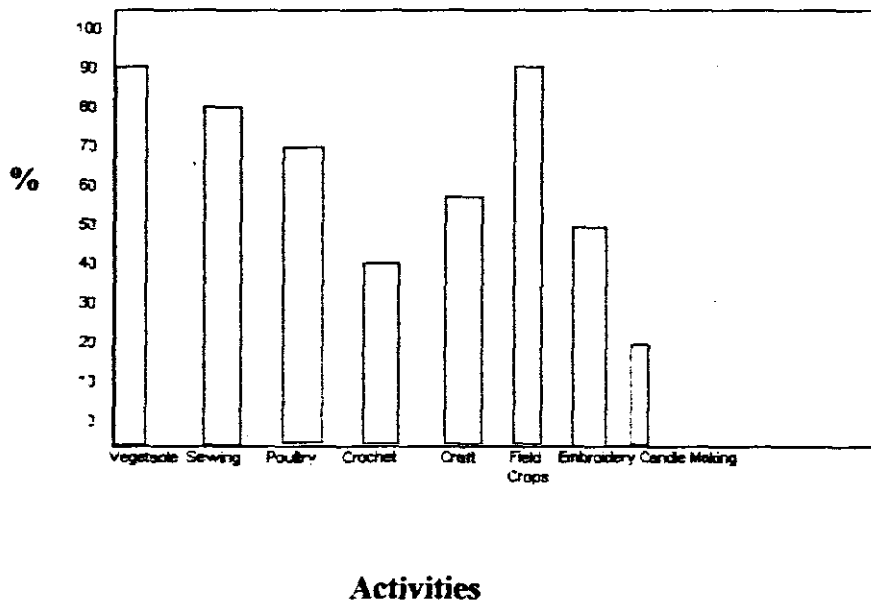


Figure 1 . Overall Group Activities

From figure 1 it is evident that womens' groups within this area are highly engaged in vegetable production as well as field crop production followed by sewing and poultry. In spite of various skills women have it was indicated during interviews that other skills are required. These skills include entrepreneurship skills, marketing skills as well as project management skills.

#### **4.8 PROGRESS AND PROBLEMS REGARDING ACTIVITIES**

In the interviews women groups reported to have achieved some successes because from their projects they are able to feed their families and generate income through sale of produce.

Concerning sewing projects the benefits, which could accrue to the community, included the local community being in a position to obtain items like school uniforms locally and at reasonable prices if these sewing projects could obtain contracts to supply school uniforms. There were some indications that these groups are moving towards becoming viable small and medium enterprises and therefore need technical and financial support.

Some problems were also revealed by the study. These included the fact that women are engaged in a number of activities. They are not farmers only but are also housekeepers. Their primary roles are to secure food supply and to be responsible for all domestic activities.

This has the implications of such issues as timing of activities and ensuring that every opportunity should be used to work through existing womens' groups and strengthen them through training.

Other problems are especially acute for those women living on their own with children too young to assist them in farming and without cash to pay resources.

The major problem indicated was that most projects had no market around them and as a result could not dispose of their produce especially vegetables. This results in spoilage of produce leading to major losses.

The majority of projects confirmed that inputs are obtained from places which are too far from their projects, and as a result the cost of transport is sometimes prohibitive. These inputs included sewing material, poultry feed, fertilisers as well as seedlings.

Theft in projects was also reported to be a major problem. This refers to stealing of produce as well as building material for structures. This causes them tremendous losses and hinders progress in their projects. Most groups during interviews reported that they held their meetings monthly to discuss matters pertaining to their projects. Most of the time was reported to have been spent on project activities.

On average it was reported that women spend more than 10 hours in a week in project activities. However time varied depending on peak seasons.

Generally the objectives of womens' projects were said to be to alleviate poverty, to create job opportunities, to generate income and to provide unity among the members. All groups had clearly stated objectives.

Although all womens' clubs had constitutions it was revealed through responses that they are not strictly adhered to. The reason could be negligence and failure to value and give weight to their constitutions.

#### 4.9 GROUP COMPOSITION AND CHARACTERISTICS

On average womens' groups reported to have 15 participants actively involved in the projects.

#### 4.10 MARITAL STATUS

Marital status was considered crucial in assessing the effectiveness of the projects as it indicated the amount of time that was spent in project activities between married and unmarried women. It was assumed that a married women could not spend long hours in the project as she has to be fully involved in family matters while single women could have plenty of time to spend in project activities as they are flexible regarding matters outside the family.

OVERALL MARITAL STATUS	PERCENTAGE
MARRIED	70%
WIDOWED	20%
NEVER MARRIED	5%
DIVORCED	0%
LIVING TOGETHER	5%

Figure 2. Overall Marital Status

Figure 2 shows clearly that the highest percentage was of married women. This has therefore to be considered when planning for extension projects so as to evaluate the possibility and likelihood of participants attending meetings and other activities related to their projects

#### **4.11 EDUCATIONAL LEVELS**

Education is not only a right in today's world but is an essential prerequisite to all development because it does empower individuals through its effects on their attitudes, aspirations, knowledge and skills.

Through its impact on population dynamics and on the social, cultural, economic, and political life education helps improve the quality of life, creating or reinforcing the conditions needed to reduce the incidence of poverty.

For this study, educational level was categorised into non formal education, primary education, high school education, tertiary education and other types of education acquired.

<b>EDUCATIONAL LEVELS</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
NON FORMAL EDUCATION	60%
PRIMARY EDUCATION	20%
HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION	5%
TERTIARY	0%
OTHER	15%

**Figure 3. Overall Educational Levels**

From figure 3 it is evident that the majority of women engaged in projects have non formal education. This ties very well with Merha (1995: 393) in his argument that although the development world has made considerable progress in improving womens' literacy and education significant differences still persist.

Studies also have shown that improvements in agriculture are strongly linked to education and literate women farmers are more likely to adopt modern agricultural practices.

This implies therefore that project participants need some form of non-formal education so as to improve their level of contribution to agriculture.

Education is also linked to improved production. Keeping up with modern technology requires skilled and educated people. Many women lack formal education and experience in the outside world and that leads to shyness, lack of confidence and weak leadership.

It also leads to lack of understanding amongst women of the reasons behind their problems, the awareness of opportunities for change and the skill to organise themselves to overcome those problems (Evans 1986: 23).

Functional literacy is highly required for women who are project participants especially those who can neither read nor write. Its importance is attributed to the fact that it will attempt linking the acquisition of reading and writing skills to vocational training, rural as well as agricultural development. It could hopefully help women to reach a particular level of competence or operative efficiency.

During an interview an old lady said:

*"We were not given access to education due to traditional beliefs that female education could lead to immoral behaviour. Again we grew up on farms and could not acquire education as we had to provide labour to the owner of the farm".*

This is however linked to the effect of laws and regulations of the past apartheid. Merha (1995: 397) is of the opinion that women may not be able to participate in extension projects because they lack education or because projects are not sensitive to women's multiple roles as well as the constraints, and do not maintain flexible training schedules which could enable women to attend. This could be one of the causes of reduction in the efficiency of women's extension projects.

Continuing low levels of literacy and education among rural women therefore pose a significant barrier to improvements in productivity of projects as well as in proper project management and administration.

#### **4.12 OCCUPATION**

Occupation of respondents was considered to be important in determining the composition of people who are active project participants. Occupation was categorised into farming, working for wages off farm, business and other occupations.



OCCUPATION	PERCENTAGE
FARMER	3 %
WAGE EARNER	2 %
BUSINESS / TRADING	0 %
HOUSEWIFE	80 %
OTHER	15 %

**Figure 4. Overall Occupation**

From Figure 4 it is indicated that 80% of project participants are housewives followed by 15 % which is dominated by pensioners. 3% of women reported to be farmers.

### 4.1.3 AGE DISTRIBUTION

Age was categorised into 16 - 35, 36 - 40, 41-50, 51- 60 and 60 and above. This was done to determine which age category is actively involved in projects as that could have some implications to the efficiency of the project.

<b>AGE DISTRIBUTION</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
15-35	3 %
36-40	5 %
41-50	12 %
51-60	70 %
61 and above	10 %

**Figure 5. Overall Age Distribution**

Figure 5 shows that 70% of active participants are late middle age adults (those between 51 and 60 years) followed by 12% for those between 41-50 years and 10% for those above 60 years. This therefore has some implications during planning and implementation of projects due to the age factor.

#### **4.1.4 EXTENSION**

Through the analysis it became evident that most projects are visited by extension officers at least once month or even more than that. This includes both male and female extension officers mostly employed by the government to give technical advice to project participants, to link the projects with resourceful agencies, to provide training in a variety of skills as well to link project with respective markets.

As was indicated by Mr Mbokazi in his study in the same area the shortage of extension officers is still a problem as there are only 5 agricultural technicians running the entire district.

#### **4.1.5 ACCESS TO RESOURCES**

The productivity of womens' projects is constrained because they are disproportionately poor, they have fewer tools and less access to productivity enhancing inputs as their rights to land are still limited to some extent and relatively insecure. They face significant time and labour constraints and also their capital is less developed.

Lack of proper access to and control over land affects productivity in a number of ways. Banks often require land as collateral for credit and lack of title constrains womens' access to loans.

Throughout the developing world few women own or have access to resources. Even in cases where traditionally women have rights to land, they were often assigned smaller and low quality plots and consequently their production was affected.

From the study it was discovered that the chances of women practising commercial agriculture are few because land is still not regarded as womens' property, but belongs to the Inkosi.

Close to 90% of womens' projects reported that they only have small pieces of land which they utilise only for subsistence farming. They had a feeling that if they could be given enough land they could be able to practice sustainable agriculture and contribute to household food security.

This ties very well with Rivera and Schram (1987: 84) that when women are given the opportunity to receive credit, training as well as inputs, their agricultural performance is similar to better male farmers.

Women also reported that they don't have enough tools to assist them in their project activities. Lack of availability of labour saving tools and implements affect the efficiency of womens' time use and undermines their productivity.

This study suggested that there is a strong correlation existing between overall project success and delivering of resources to women as they had less access to project resources even when they are targeted.

Women therefore need more support and access to land and even great tenure, more and better education and skills training to become better farmers and to reduce their vulnerability to technological and economic change and to enhance their self reliance.

There is a dire need for the improvement of technology, including indigenous technology so as to reduce womens' workload as it has been indicated that women are overburdened with both farm and domestic work.

The study however indicated that some women have acquired skills in activities like sewing, vegetable production, crop production, candle making as well as poultry keeping through short courses offered by government officials as well as NGOs.

It is suggested that technologies be developed, tested and made available for commodities and processing activities for which women are responsible.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1 INTRODUCTION**

Chapter four of this study dealt with data analysis and interpretation.

This chapter will draw some conclusions on the basis of findings made and thereafter some recommendations shall be made and a plan of action proposed.

The proposed plan of action will give suggestions on how various recommendations can be implemented. This will then be followed by the conclusion to the research project.

#### **5.2 PROBLEM RESTATED**

In chapter one the problem under study was stated. It was about the failure of development planners to fully recognise the role that is played by women in extension projects and to meet womens' real needs and problems.

#### **5.3 AIM OF THE STUDY RESTATED**

The aim of the research was to find out if extension services rendered are appropriate to womens' projects and activities and to assess the efficiency of womens' projects and the impact on their livelihoods and economic well-being.

The researcher aimed at looking at how extension projects are administered, how time and task is allocated to project activities, how women access resources, how extension projects can change women's roles and statuses and how existing extension projects can be improved.

## **5.4 METHODS USED IN DATA COLLECTION**

### **5.4.1 LITERATURE REVIEW**

A broad range of literature was reviewed with the aim of establishing a broad frame of reference within which the problem under investigation could be identified and defined. This was done in chapter two of the study and it became clear that the perspective of poor and oppressed women provides a unique and powerful point from which we can examine the effects of development programmes and strategies. It can also be mentioned that the vantage point of poor women enables every development worker not only to evaluate the extent to which development strategies benefit or harm the poorest and most oppressed section of the people but also to judge their impact on other sectors as well.

Following the logic of feminist standpoint theory it is argued that if the objectives of development enterprise include improved standards of living, alleviation of poverty as well as reduction in social inequality, then it is to start with women as they constitute the majority of the poor, the underemployed and the economically and socially disadvantaged in most societies.

Feminist theories have emphasised the importance of social and cultural factors in restricting womens' access to opportunities .Furthermore, women suffer from additional burdens imposed by gender-based hierarchies and subordination. However their work, under-remunerated and undervalued as it is, is vital to the survival and ongoing reproduction of human being in all societies.

#### **5. 4. 2 EMPIRICAL INVESTIGATION**

Having laid a theoretical background, an empirical study was conducted through focus group discussions aided by the interview schedule with the close and open-ended questions. Valuable information was also elicited from agricultural technicians as well as some other key informants of the area.

Some observations were also made on project sites which gave the researcher valuable indications about the current situations that prevail in womens' projects.



## **5.5 CONCLUSION OF THE STUDY**

From data collected, analysed and interpreted from this study, the researcher arrived at this conclusion:

### **5.5.1 IMPACT OF EXTENSION PROJECTS TO WOMEN**

Results confirmed that women are engaged in a variety of extension activities and these appear to be an additional burden on their household chores. Agricultural activities appear to take up most of womens' time. In addition to producing food, women also store, preserve, prepare and distribute food in their families. Indeed, they are responsible for most activities associated with meeting the families' needs. However, to a certain extent it can be said that the constraints under which female farmers have to operate as well as their multiple roles are nowadays beginning to be recognised.

Some progress has been achieved on a practical level i.e. with the implementation of development extension projects, generally speaking and specifically with relation to women although a large number of economically viable and sustainable extension projects is still left behind. To a lesser extent these projects do address womens' needs and problems depending on the nature of the project.

However it has been noted that womens' perceptions of themselves are slightly changing as they take initiative and venture beyond the milieu to which they have traditionally been confined.

It is important that the emphasis should continue to fall on voluntary and self-help projects where, from a financial point of view, more can be accomplished with limited resources available. In addition and even more important, is the fact that it forces the projects to be structured according to the needs of women identified by themselves.

#### **5. 5. 2 TIME AND TASK ALLOCATION AND ACCESS TO RESOURCES**

Women reported that they spent most of their time in project activities especially during peak seasons as they perform almost 90% of tasks in the projects.

Despite women's importance in agriculture, they still lack access to resources such as land, markets, credit, employment, modern technology and good and sustainable quality of life. Women also experienced problems with credit as they don't receive enough credit to facilitate their projects. Their needs therefore included better tools, seed, fertilisers, and basic information applicable to their particular circumstances. Women involved in processing may need access to modern methods, whether they carry out the tasks for their families or as small-scale entrepreneurs.

#### **5. 5. 3 PROJECT EXPERIENCE OF WOMENS' ORGANISATIONS**

From interview and observations it became clear that women have been and are still experiencing difficulties with their projects. In most cases development projects directed at women are often small, scattered and peripheral to the main aim of development.

They mainly try to promote self-sufficiency rather than development in the sense of expansion and qualitative change. Furthermore, the criteria for success are often less stringent than those of projects for men.

As has been mentioned, women have interrelated roles. This has implications for such issues as the timing of activities. In most cases when new activities were introduced they tended to jeopardise the existing roles of women and that contributed to the failure of programmes being implemented. Again the top-down need identification and programme implementation led to many of them being not valued and did not help women.

As a matter of fact women who are engaged in project activities are fairly old, uneducated and poverty-stricken such that most of projects introduced to them seem to be less attractive and less interesting.

#### **5.5.4 CHANGES IN ROLES AND STATUS OF WOMEN**

From the development point of view women's roles and statuses are slightly beginning to change from being passive recipients of development to being active participants especially those involved in development projects. It has been observed that they are moving towards gaining leadership abilities and decision making as they are beginning to be able to identify their needs and problems as well as resources to meet those needs.

#### **5.5.5 TYPES OF PROJECTS**

Extensive use is made of development projects in Kwa-Zulu Natal in an attempt to alleviate hunger and the majority of them are more of a social development undertaking. These projects include baking, cooking, vegetable production, crop production, food preservation and preparation and poultry production to improve food security as well as sewing, savings clubs, handicraft, candlemaking, embroidery and needlework as income generating projects.

These projects are however questioned regarding their relevance, usefulness and appropriateness to the rural womens' roles in relation to the existing needs in their socio-economic, cultural and political environment.

#### **5.5.6 SCOPE FOR FUTURE PROJECTS**

As a matter of fact, women are not farmers only and they have interrelated roles. This means that every opportunity should be used to work with existing womens' groups and strengthen them through leadership training and capacity building.

To some extent, for future extension projects to succeed, extension communications have to be targeted directly to specific audiences, women in this case.

Extension officers need to be aware of decision-makers in families as well as multiple goals which lead to different labour contributions and distinct inclinations to take risks.

I am in agreement with Rivera and Schram ( 1987 :183 ) that future extension projects will have to give attention to gender issues and assessment of the impact of extension interventions on women farmers, attend to specific budgetary allocations to support technical assistance as well as monitoring of interventions and delivery mechanisms.

Through this study it has been discovered that women are rarely engaged in projects like upholstery, wood carving ,pottery, commercial farming and some other construction projects which could lead to women becoming entrepreneurs.

## **5.6 RECOMMENDATIONS**

*In view of the stated conclusion the researcher recommends the following: Women need to be empowered and be fully integrated in the development process as empowerment is considered to be essential to development, particularly to food security. It can be enhanced by looking at the overall status of women. This calls for actions to be taken to repeal and reform laws, amend constitutions and change certain practices which still discriminate against women, particularly in rural areas. Womens' access to education must be enhanced and gender stereotyping eradicated.*

*It is important to ensure full participation of women in the development process as a whole and in human resource development in particular. The promotion of gender equality by removing restrictions on womens' access to and control over resources, opportunities, incentives and income should be pursued as a strategy to promote sustainable development and should be the responsibility of the society as a whole.*

*Stressing the importance of main streaming the gender perspective into economic policies should be done at the policy development, design, implementation and evaluation levels. Creating an enabling environment which will allow women to express their priorities, needs and interests is also desirable.*

Womens' projects have to be strengthened so as to increase their bargaining power at the community level and in the market place as well as engendering mechanisms which deliver support for economic activities and assist with the building of womens' economic capacity.

There is a dire need for supporting trade fairs, training in export marketing, linking women with new and emerging markets as well as technology and credit. To achieve genuine progress towards sustainable development, women must be given opportunities to put their abilities to full use at every stage of development of their projects and to benefit from the results. Achieving the desirable change requires new development strategies to respond to current realities and not simply replicate the past. Also the limited evidence suggests that agricultural extension services can be more beneficial to women if these issues can be considered:

- Devising appropriate administrative structures.
- Conducting gender analysis so as to discover the constraints, incentives and division of labour and using those results to modify existing projects.
- Help extension agents to identify the needs of women farmers.

In addition to this some suggestions are made with regards to some implications for researchers, policy makers and the government, if we are to keep up with challenge and ensure that womens' roles and needs are represented in agricultural and rural development planning and policy making.

These suggestions are as follows:

\*Researchers need to gain greater understanding of womens' workload by studying time use patterns in rural areas.

\*Investigations should be made as to why womens' time is allocated to various activities especially in rural areas.

\*Researchers and planners should consider the effects of development projects and programmes on women.

\*Governments, government organisations and other NGOs should ensure that their policies cater for proper representation of women from village level to head office.

\*Efforts should be made to strengthen existing womens' projects by providing training in leadership, project management and marketing.

\*Appropriate technology should be developed so as to ease womens' workload and women should be involved in identifying constraints and possible solutions.

\*Programmes should be designed with consideration for womens' seasonal and daily work demands and if possible, programmes should be integrated for instance, food production, preservation, storage, nutrition education and income generation should be linked.



\*Womens' needs to earn income should be acknowledged by improving marketing skills and providing infrastructure for marketing and providing opportunities for skills training. This has to link up with provision of infrastructure like roads and telecommunications.

\*It is also important that efforts be made to coordinate efforts of different government departments at village level as many of womens' difficulties arise from problems associated with water supply, health, literacy etc. which directly affect agricultural production and cannot be solved by concentrating on one department separately.

\*Young women have to be involved in agricultural extension so as to bridge the gap between the older generation and the younger generation so that agriculture is no longer seen as a vocation for the older generation only.

Other factors that need attention are:

\*The participation of women in the rethinking and reshaping of their own future.

\*The need for identification of potential successful project participants.

\*The need for a meaningful period of transition from women taking no responsibility at all to them taking full responsibility and charge of allocated enterprises.

\*Lastly, there is a need for an increased number of agricultural technicians in the district of Simdlangentsha.

## 5.7 CONCLUSION

The South African agricultural extension scene is in a state of constant change and some opportunities are emerging for women. This is an interesting but challenging scenario especially for women who must grasp the opportunity and learn to cope with constant diversity of threats. However this can best be achieved if women are appropriately and adequately prepared.

The empirical investigation of the research problem as stated in chapter one was conducted being guided by the objectives of the study.

A number of findings were made where it became clear that extension projects for women still have some shortcomings for example, they still have not come to the level where women feel empowered and self sufficient.

As repeatedly mentioned, women are rarely consulted during implementation, monitoring and evaluation of their projects. The productivity of womens' projects is constrained because they lack access to resources both human and material resources . They lack training in valuable skills to help them in running their projects as well as project management skills. This has led to many development projects collapsing. Training in leadership skills and information supply is also lacking.

On the basis of research findings made, some implications were made which further enabled the researcher to make some recommendations.

It is therefore hoped that the aforementioned recommendations if implemented shall bring some improvements in respect of extension projects in the Simdlangentsha district and the entire Kwa-Zulu Natal. If that can happen hopefully the quality of extension in this area will show significant improvements and that will contribute towards food security and hunger alleviation.

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**APPENDIX A**  
**WOMENS' DEVELOPMENT EXTENSION PROJECTS**  
**AN INTERVIEW SCHEDULE**

**1. DEMOGRAPHICS**

- 1.1 Name of the group : \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.2 Region : \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.3 District : \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.4 Ward : \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.5 Sub-ward : \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.6 Inkosi : \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.7 Induna : \_\_\_\_\_
- 1.8 Councillor : \_\_\_\_\_

**2. HISTORY**

- 2.1 Date started : \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.2 Who started it ? : \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.3 Institutional base : \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.4 Reasons for its formation : \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.5 Links with other groups : \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**3. STATUS OF THE GROUP**

- 3.1 Number of members : \_\_\_\_\_
- 3.2 Who can join? : \_\_\_\_\_
- 3.3 Registration ( where & when) : \_\_\_\_\_

**4. FINANCIAL STATUS**

- 4.1 Account number : \_\_\_\_\_
- 4.2 Members' contribution : \_\_\_\_\_
- 4.3 Money from outside sources : \_\_\_\_\_
- 4.4 Amount in bank : \_\_\_\_\_
- 4.5 Cash on hand : \_\_\_\_\_
- 4.6 Outstanding debts : \_\_\_\_\_
- 4.7 Outstanding credits : \_\_\_\_\_
- 4.8 Property owned by group : \_\_\_\_\_

**5. GROUP ORGANISATION**

- 5.1 Chairperson : \_\_\_\_\_
- 5.2 Deputy : \_\_\_\_\_
- 5.3 Secretary : \_\_\_\_\_
- 5.4 Assistant Secretary : \_\_\_\_\_
- 5.5 Treasurer : \_\_\_\_\_
- 5.6 Additional members : \_\_\_\_\_  
: \_\_\_\_\_  
: \_\_\_\_\_
- 5.7 Term of office : \_\_\_\_\_
- 5.8 No. of committee members : \_\_\_\_\_
- 5.9 How is income distributed? : \_\_\_\_\_
- 5.10 Is bookkeeping carried out ?
- 5.11 Yes  No



5.12 If no give reasons : \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5.13 Has any of you been to training courses or workshops ?

5.14 Yes  No

5.15 If yes , what was covered during those courses ?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**6. ACTIVITIES OF THE GROUP**

6.1 What extension activities are you engaged in ?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6.2 What skills do group members have ?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6.3 Are these skills useful in running your project ?

6.4 Yes  No

6.5 If no , what other skills do you require ?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. PROGRESS AND PROBLEMS REGARDING ACTIVITIES**

7.1 What successes have been achieved by the group in the past 5 years?

---

---

---

---

7.2 What failures have occurred and why?

---

---

---

7.3 Have problems been encountered during the past 5 years ?

7.4 Yes  No

7.5 If yes, what are they ?

---

---

7.6 How often do you meet?

7.6.1 Once a week

7.6.2 Twice a week

7.6.3 Three times a week

7.6.4 Other ( specify): \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

7.7 How much time do you spend on activities of the project per week ?

7.7.1 Less than an hour

7.7.2 From 1 - 5 hours

7.7.3 From 5 - 10 hours

7.7.4 Other(specify) :-----

-----  
-----  
-----

7.8 What are the objectives of the project ?

-----  
-----  
-----

7.9 Do you have the constitution ?

7.10 Yes  No

7.11 If yes, do you follow it? -----

7.12 If no, give reasons why you don't follow it.

-----  
-----  
-----

## 8. GROUP COMPOSITION AND CHARACTERISTICS

8.1 How many members are there in the group? -----

8.2 Marital status

8.2.1 Married

8.2.2 Divorced

8.2.3 Widowed

8.2.4 Never married

8.2.5 Living together

8.3 Educational Levels

8.3.1 Non formal education

8.3.2 Below standard 5

8.3.3 Standard 5 to 10

8.3.4 Above standard 10

8.3.5. Tertiary education

8.3.5 Other ( specify ) \_\_\_\_\_

8.4 Occupation

8.4.1 Farming

8.4.2 Work for wages off farm

8.4.3 Trading / Business

8.4.4 Other ( specify ) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8.4.5 Age distribution

15-35	36-40	41-50	51-60	60 and above

9. EXTENSION

9.1 Have you been visited by an extension officer during the past year ?

Yes

No

9.2 If yes , what gender was the officer ?

Male

Female

9.3 How often did he/ she visit you per month? -----  
-----

9.4 Who was the extension officer's employer ?

Government

Non-government ( specify) -----  
-----

9.5 Did she / he give you advices relevant to the project activities ?

Yes

No

If yes , did you follow those advices ?

Yes

No

If no , give reasons -----  
-----  
-----

9.6 What extension services you think you need for your project ?  
-----  
-----  
-----

9.7 What do you consider as important extension officer's work in your project?  
-----  
-----  
-----

**10 ACCESS TO RESOURCES**

10.1 What resources does the project have? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10.2 What credit facilities has the project received for the past 5 years ?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10.3 Is there any assistance received from Dept. of Agriculture ?

Yes

No

If yes, what type of assistance is that? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10.4 Do you feel that the project has enough land to meet production requirements ?

Yes

No

10.5 Which tools do you use in your project? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**WOMENS' DEVELOPMENT EXTENSION PROJECTS**  
**KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW SHEET**

**1. PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Name	:	_____
Gender	:	_____
Age	:	_____
Educational level	:	_____
Academic qualification	:	_____
Occupation	:	_____
Employer	:	_____
Address	:	_____
Telephone	:	_____
Fax	:	_____
Region	:	_____
District	:	_____
Ward	:	_____
Inkosi	:	_____
Induna	:	_____
Councillor	:	_____
Period in the area	:	_____

**2. DEMOGRAPHICS**

Name of the community : \_\_\_\_\_  
Region : \_\_\_\_\_  
District : \_\_\_\_\_  
Ward : \_\_\_\_\_  
Sub ward : \_\_\_\_\_

**3. WOMENS' PROJECTS**

What agricultural activities are womens' groups engaged in? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Average number of womens' groups in the area. \_\_\_\_\_

Average age of project participants \_\_\_\_\_

Average marital status \_\_\_\_\_

Are projects near womens' households or at a distance? \_\_\_\_\_

If at a distance what transport do they use to get to the project? \_\_\_\_\_

What facilities are provided for the running of womens' projects? \_\_\_\_\_



What are values, beliefs and knowledge underlying womens' farming practices?-----

What successes have been made by womens' extension projects during the last 5 years?-----

What are the problems that women encounter in running their projects?-----

Are there any known constraints on womens' extension projects?-----

Where do project participants sell their produce?-----

What do you think can be done help women with marketing of their produce?-----

In your opinion , what should be done to increase the benefits and the efficiency of womens' extension projects?-----

---

---

---

What could be the reasons for the failure of most womens' projects?---

---

---

---

What resources do women projects have?-----

---

---

Is there any form of assistance provided by the Department of Agriculture to womens' projects?-----

---

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---

---

What do you consider to be the important role of the Agricultural extension officer in womens' projects?-----

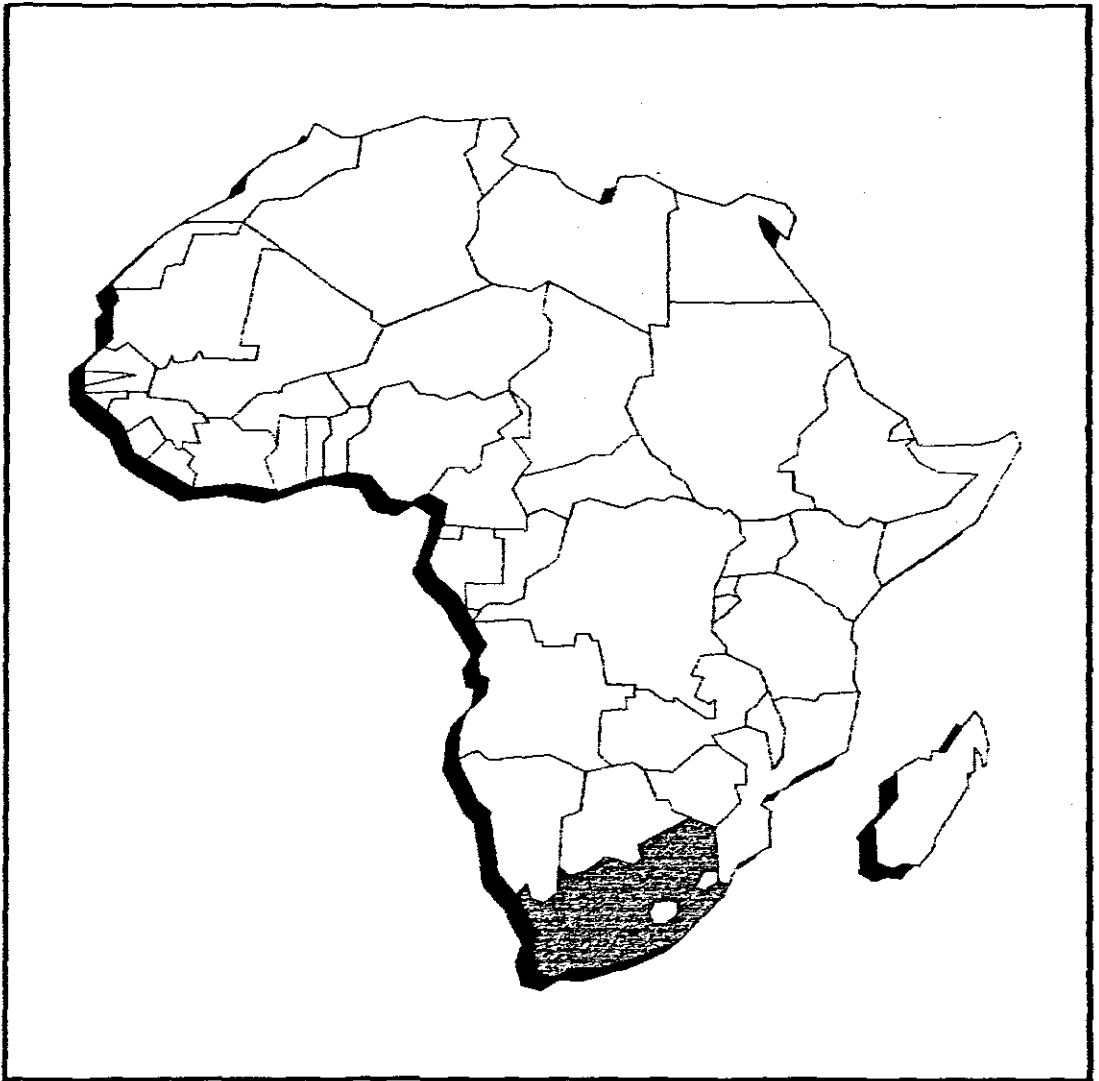
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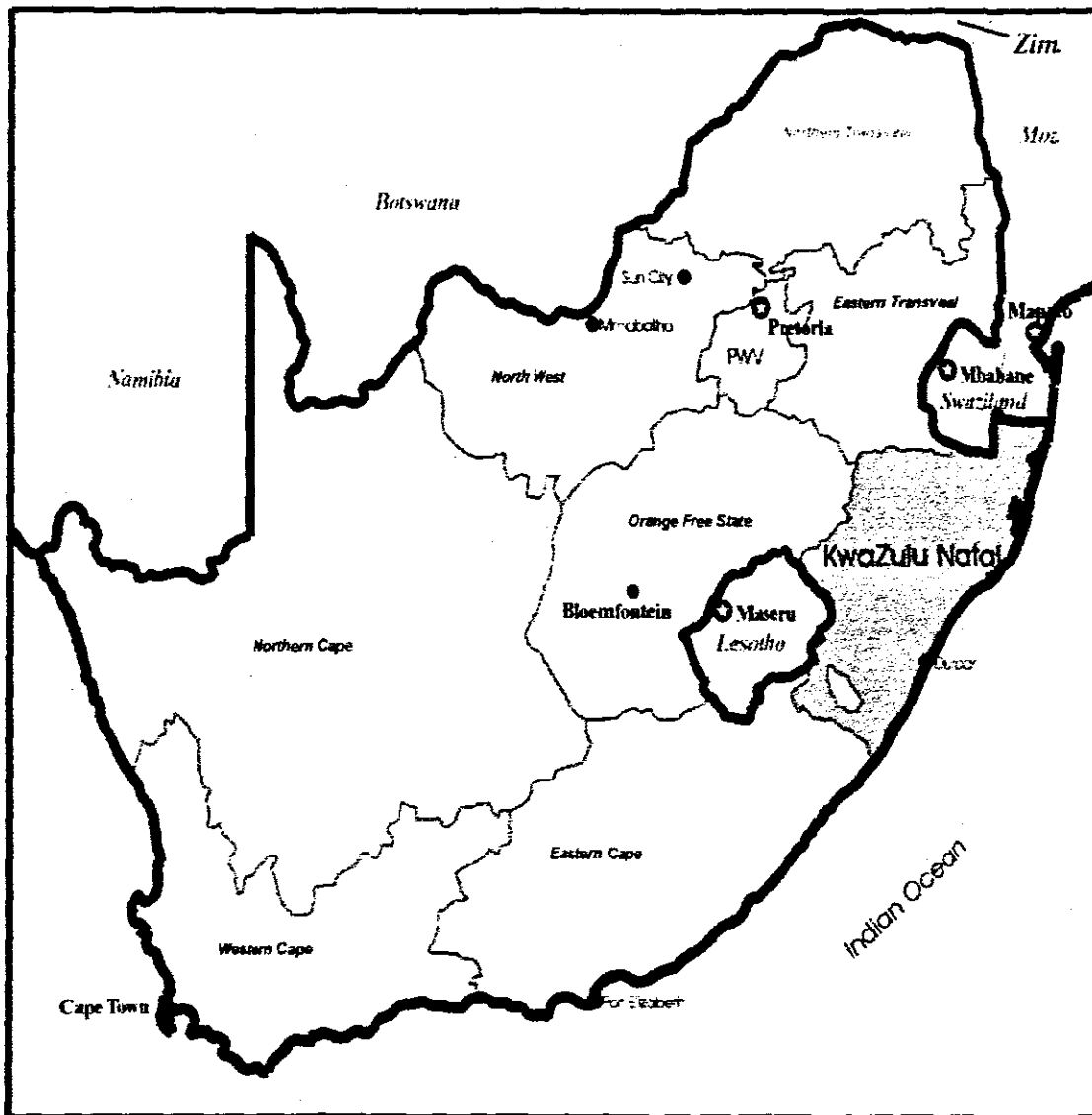
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*APPENDIX B*

*MAPS*



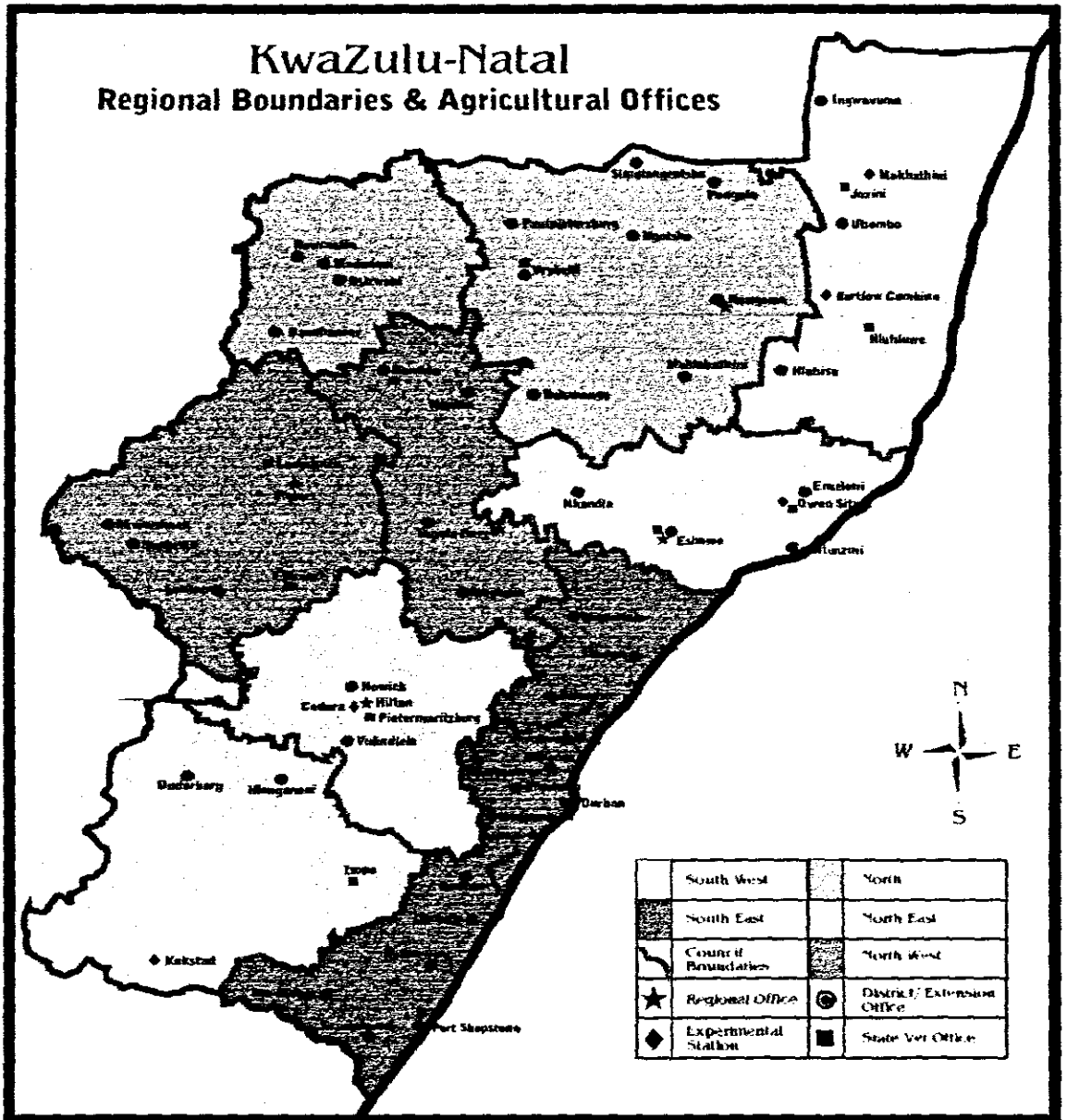
**Map of Africa indicating South Africa**



Map of South Africa indicating KwaZulu Natal

# KwaZulu-Natal

## Regional Boundaries & Agricultural Offices



	South West		North
	South East		North East
	North West		Central
	County Boundaries		District/Extension Office
	Regional Office		Experimental Station
	State Vet Office		