

Sustainable rural development: employment and household farming

Peter Jacobs

Human Science Research Council (HSRC-EPD)

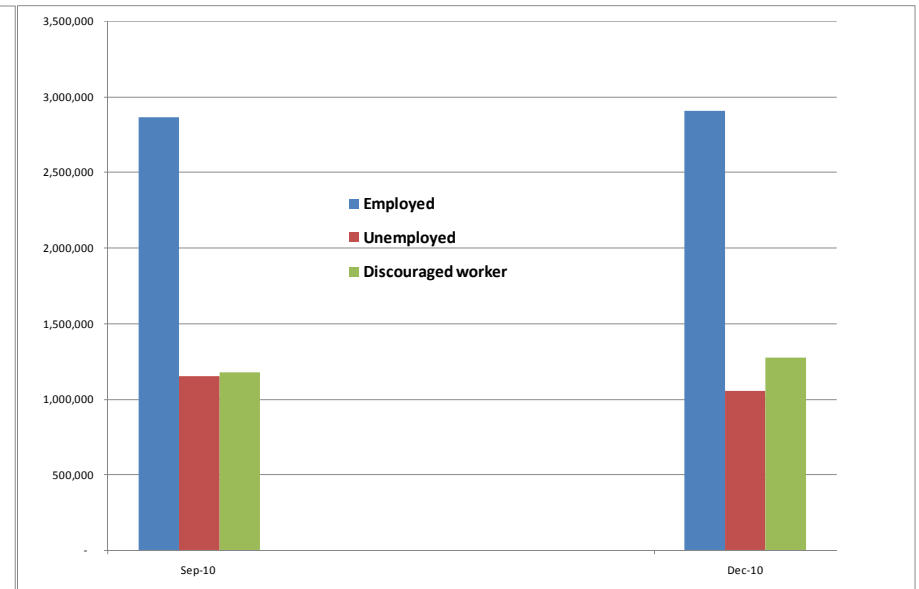
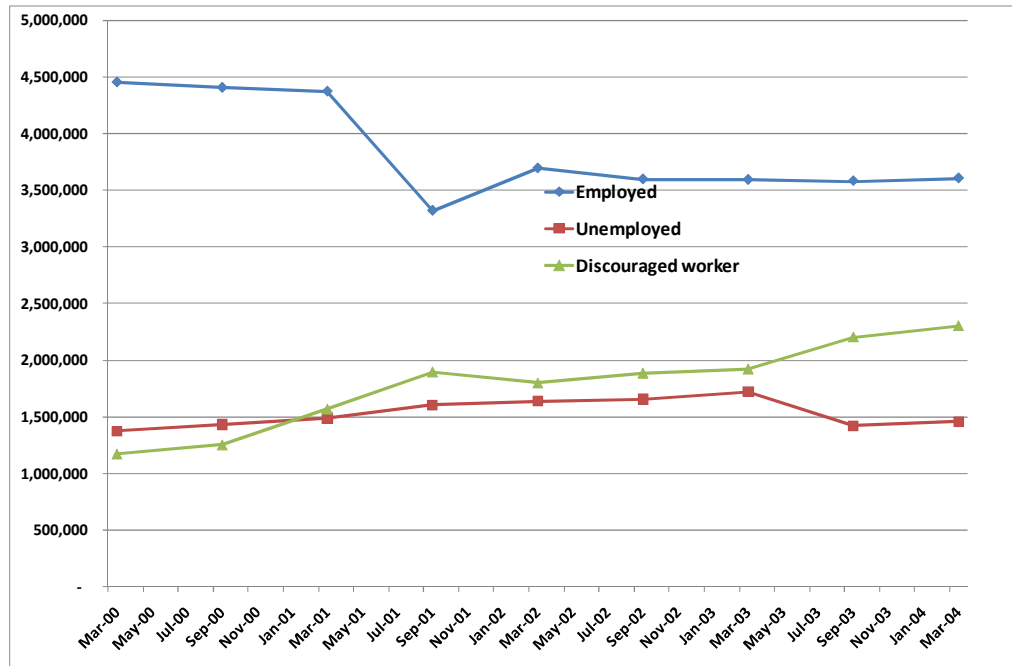
EDD Conference- 31 May 2011

Spatial Dynamics Panel

Overview of rural development paths

- Several factors militate against a coherent analysis and discussion of rural development:
 - a clear and consistent definition of ‘rural’; rural development is often mistakenly equated with agricultural development
 - adequate data (appropriate variables and quality); in SA reintroduction of spatial variables (QLFS & GHS), but based on settlement type and a hazy geo-spatial indicator
- Rural development viewed through rural employment and livelihoods patterns
- What is happening to the agricultural value chains?
- What is happening to household farming activities?

Rural labour force march 2000- march 2004 & 2010



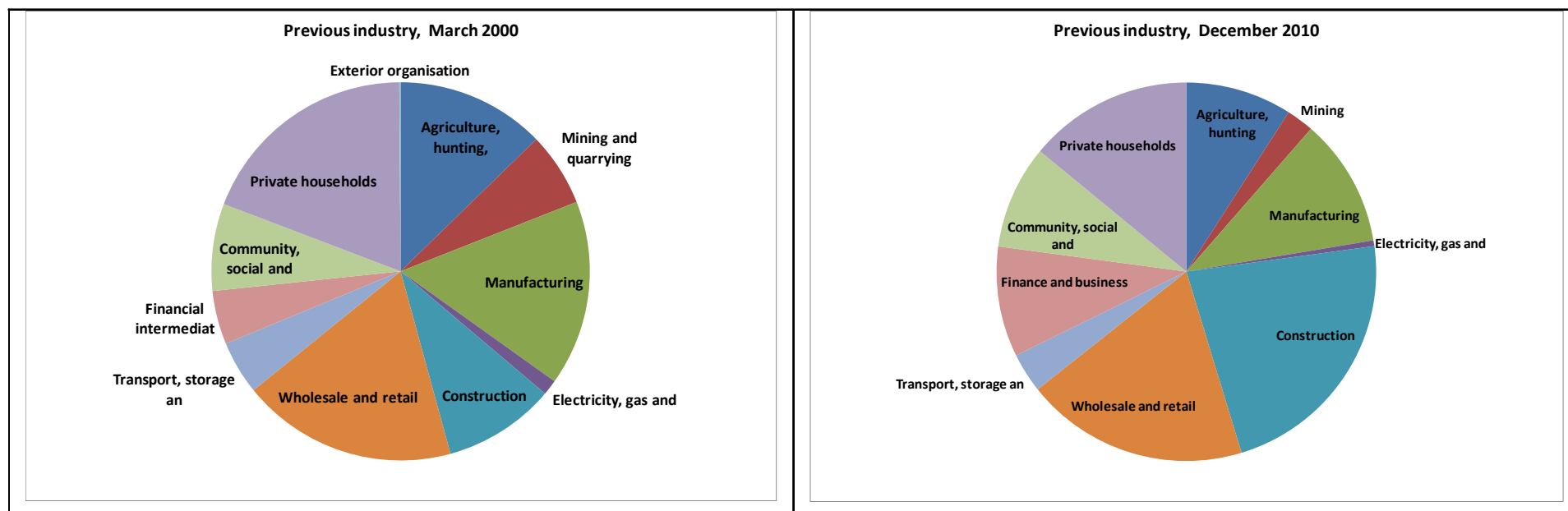
Employment in primary agriculture has declined from 1,2 million in 2000 to 620,000 in 2010

Over the same period, the workforce in agro-processing has drifted higher from 230,000 to 290,000, but the numbers in rural areas continue to fall

Share of rural unemployed 3-years or more

Quarter	Share
Mar-00	39.56
Sep-00	40.99
Mar-01	44.05
Sep-01	45.34
Mar-02	45.73
Sep-02	41.27
Mar-03	42.72
Sep-03	39.15
Mar-04	45.28
Sep-10	31.46
Dec-10	34.75

Previous industry of rural unemployed

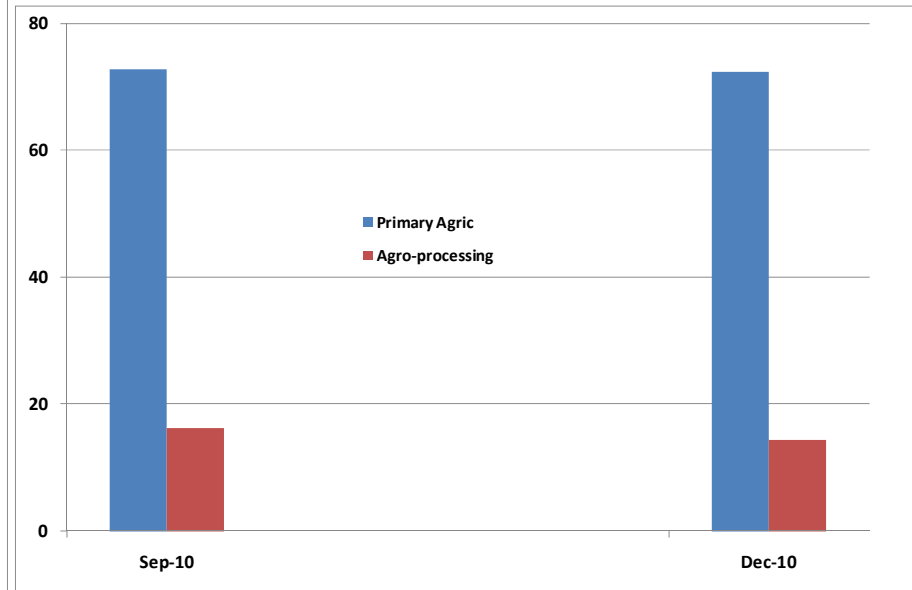
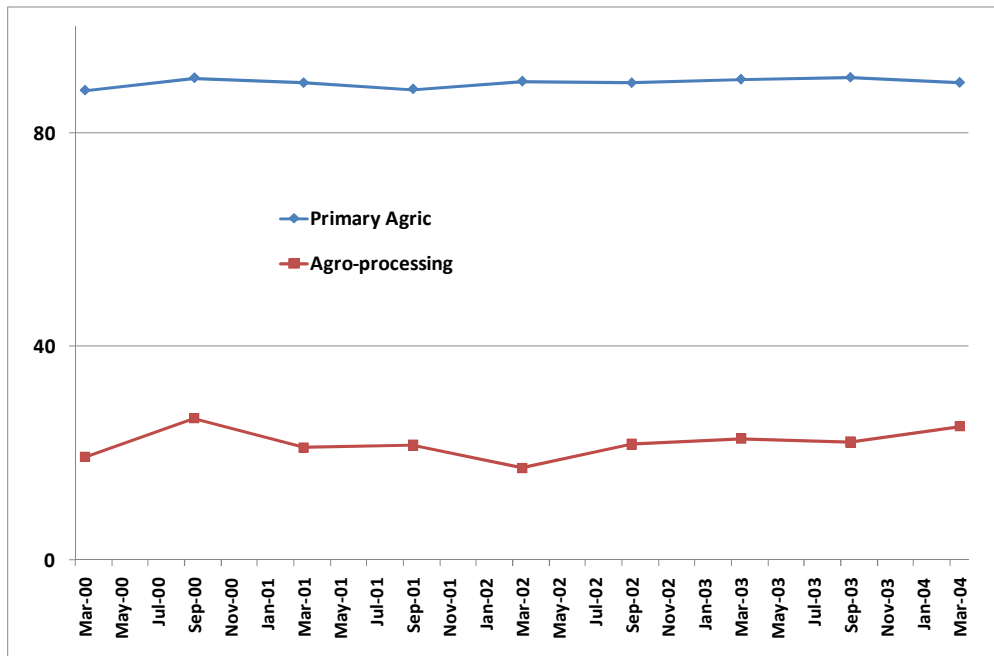


Substantial numbers of the rural unemployed formerly worked in non-agricultural sectors- especially construction and trade- but the linkages to agriculture require more in-depth analysis...

Large numbers (60%-70%) had been in elementary occupations and domestic work...

What are the implications mean for diversifying rural development- say to boost infrastructure development?

AVC analysis helps to understand spatial distribution of stages in value-addition of goods and services
Rural workforce limited incorporation in lowest stages of agro-processing (based on SIC)



More than 2 million rural households farm on small plots-mainly to produce additional food, but transitioning them into a marketable surplus is a challenge

