

Rural development: strategies and challenges

Dr David Hemson

Centre for Service Delivery, HSRC

Provincial Monitoring & Evaluation Forum

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Grasping the whole

- Rural Development:
- *a positive advancement of people in rural areas and better development environment*
- *through improvement of rural institutions and systems,*
- *expansion of rural infrastructure, and*
- *growth in rural economic activities*
- Adapted from (SARDQ vol 2, Q1 2004) for better rural life.

World Bank *short list* of RD themes:

- Agricultural Education and Training
- Agricultural Extension
- Agricultural Research
- Agricultural Trade
- Biodiversity
- Climate Change
- Commodity Risk Management
- Community Based Rural Development
- Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Forests and Forestry
- Gender and Rural Development
- Irrigation and Drainage:
Water for Food
- Land Policy and Administration
- Land Resources Management
- Livestock and Animal Resources
- Natural Resource Management Institutions
- Producer Organizations
- Rural Finance
- Rural Private Sector Development
- Rural Transport
- Rural Water Supply and Sanitation
- Water Resources

Issues for discussion

- Incorporation of Government priorities into service delivery plans and alignment of both.
- Clarify the M & E processes;
- Use District and the Provincial M & E Forums in order to *ensure effective and efficient service delivery;*
- *Maximum grassroots participation in the process.*

Where to prioritise?

- *Primary focus being to co-ordinate government interventions across all sectors and agencies*
- *Aggressive implementation of land reform policies*
- *Stimulate agricultural production with a view to contributing to food security*
- *Rural livelihoods and food security*
- *Improve service delivery to ensure quality of life*
- *Implement a development programme for rural transport*
- *Skills development*
- *Revitalisation of rural towns*
- *Explore and support non-farm economic activities*
- *Institutional capacity development*
- *Cooperative development*

- *MTSF Strategic Priority 3: Comprehensive rural development strategy linked to land and agrarian reform and food security*

Growth strategies

- **Nation-states struggling to cope with the changes**
- **Experimentation with alternative approaches:**
 - Territorial and Integrated
 - *Focusing on institutions and governance*
 - Emphasis on sustainability and on the generation of quality work
- **Key characteristics of new development strategies are:**
 - Territorial rather than Sectoral approach
 - *Mixed approaches or bottom-up approaches rather than top-down*
 - Less emphasis on a focus on large infrastructure projects...
 - *Prioritising development of human capital and innovation*
- **New strategies preparing for today's evolving context**
- **Past approaches have prioritised the core at the expense of the periphery**

Strategies in rural development

- Strategies
 - Ensuring public participation and training = encouraging community initiative
 - Securing *community platforms for development*: linking delivery to local community development
 - Improving service delivery *and* training and developing community organisations
 - Integrate interventions to achieve impact;
 - Start with what is available e.g. EPWP, sanitation programme, One Stop Development Centres
 - Increasing the scale of poverty reduction programmes
- Operationalisation
 - Drawing on existing programmes e.g. literacy or improved literacy for adults
 - Drawing on EPWP
 - If possible drawing in beneficiaries to advocate what works

Expanding training / community development



Task Team members at a training session.

Water Task Team Members



Meeting MDG and SONA targets by 2014

- Nearly all MDG i.e. poverty reduction, reduction in child and maternal mortality, increasing access to water and sanitation, etc, bear on rural communities.
- Launch of rural development programme at Giyani in Limpopo highlighted:
 - Land redistribution linked to creation of livelihoods;
 - Initiative of getting one person from each family in the area employed for at least next two years.
 - Aim of finding jobs or starting own enterprises.

Scaling up: starting to make a difference

Province	EPWP work opportunities	No. unemployed "official" definition	Proportion of EPWP work opportunities as proportion to the no. of unemployed
KwaZulu-Natal	115,628	882,000	13%
Western Cape	44,080	326,000	14%
Gauteng	27,637	1,085,000	3%
Eastern Cape	52,136	638,000	8%
Mpumalanga	16,739	352,000	5%
Free State	17,172	281,000	6%
Limpopo	20,133	365,000	6%
North West	13,891	339,000	4%
Northern Cape	9,399	123,000	8%
	316,815	4,391,000	7%