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ASSESSING THE EFFECTS OF THE FETŠA TLALA FOOD PRODUCTION INITIATIVE ON SMALL-SCALE FARMERS' HOUSEHOLDS AT A SELECTED VILLAGE IN POLOKWANE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, SOUTH AFRICA

Hutamo MKD^{1*}, Burman CJ² and MH Mbulaheni³



Moore KD Hutamo

*Correspondence author email: desireehutamo@gmail.com

ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0007-7405-6014> - Hutamo MKD

ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5861-2446> - Burman CJ

ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0009-3075-0041> - Mbulaheni MH

¹Turfloop Graduate School of Leadership, University of Limpopo, Polokwane, South Africa

²Senior Lecturer, Turfloop Graduate School of Leadership, University of Limpopo, Polokwane, South Africa

³Lecturer, Turfloop Graduate School of Leadership, University of Limpopo, Polokwane, South Africa



ABSTRACT

The South African agricultural sector continues to be a source of rural economic growth and contributes to food security. However, the unequal distribution of agricultural growth increases the vulnerability of some marginalised rural households. Most households living in communal farming areas are characterised by high levels of poverty with limited employment opportunities. As a consequence of this socio-economic context, some households in rural areas engage in farming activities to supplement their income and increase household food security. The study aims to assess the effects of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme on small-scale farmers' households in Dikgale Tribal Authority, Polokwane Local Municipality, South Africa. The purpose of the study is to explore the effects and to assess the factors that influenced the effects of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme on small-scale farmers' households in Dikgale Tribal Authority. This study purposefully selected 23 households of small-scale farmers and applied a qualitative research method, a semi-structured interview data collection method followed by a thematic analysis. The degree of credibility, confirmability, transferability and dependability was deemed appropriate by the researcher team and participants. The study findings indicate that the programme did facilitate increased access to resources which improved some of the beneficiaries' livelihood opportunities and household food security. However, there were a myriad of challenges that influenced the effectiveness of the programme. The challenges included weak planning and management skills by the programme organisers – hence agricultural inputs were delivered at inappropriate times during the growing season; insufficient inputs were supplied, and an unequal distribution of inputs was reportedly widespread. Further to this there were localised community vulnerabilities which were outside of the control of the programme organisers such as livestock theft. Despite these challenges, the beneficiaries were able to build localised resilience to reduce the impact of some of these shocks and do support the continuation of the programme. The study recommends increased, regular and appropriate support from the programme organisers as well as training and mentorship in the coming years in order to improve the effectiveness of the Fetša Tlala Food Production Initiative in the study area.

Key words: Agricultural projects, Household food security, Livelihoods, Inequality, Sustainable Development Goal 2



INTRODUCTION

Most small-scale farmers live in communal farming areas and their households are characterised by high levels of poverty with limited employment opportunities. It is thus argued that promoting agriculture is a viable tool to reduce poverty [1]. South African small-scale farmers have persevered in maintaining a living under challenging circumstances. There are various issues that have affected small-scale farmers with limited resources in the Limpopo Province over the past 20 years, such as their inability to access productive resources; the high cost of inputs like fertilisers and herbicides; and difficulty accessing markets and the high cost of transportation [2].

Within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) it is estimated that approximately 70% of the population improve their household food security and/or derive a portion of their livelihoods from the agricultural sector [1]. Since 1994 in South Africa, farmer support programmes have played a role in promoting equitable agricultural development by providing support for small-scale growers [2]. The type of support has been context-specific and extensive [3]. Currently the agricultural sector in South Africa contributes roughly 2.3% to GDP, 40% of export revenue and employment for 4.6% of the population [4]. Furthermore, “37.5% of South African agricultural households’ regard agriculture as a secondary source of food, while 43.7% name it as their main source of food” [5].

Despite the investment in agriculture in South Africa, many marginalised households remain food insecure, relying on government grants and family remittances for subsistence purposes [6]. As a consequence, the government has introduced a number of initiatives to improve household food security by boosting agricultural productivity in marginalised areas [7].

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA) was used as the theoretical framework for this research. The SLA is inclusive of the “capabilities, resources, activities and traits of both the people and associated organisations that affect livelihoods within a particular socio-economic context” [8]. The SLA was chosen as the theoretical framework because it is a comprehensive theory designed to reflect the “changing developmental dynamics” relating to people’s livelihood strategies [9]. The conceptual framework was augmented by a qualitative research approach. One example is the Fetša Tlala Food Production Initiative (henceforth Initiative) which was established by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in 2013 [10].

The Initiative was informed by legislative frameworks including the National Policy on Food and Nutrition Security with the ambition of improving equitably distributed household food security [11]. In Limpopo Province of South Africa, the Initiative – implemented by the Department of Agricultural and Rural Development (DARD) – especially focused on improving access to mechanical resources for improving small-scale agricultural productivity [12]. Despite the ambition of the Initiative there has been limited peer reviewed research undertaken on its impact [13].

Research approach

The interpretivist research paradigm was used in this study in order that the participants’ “personalities in social and cultural surroundings” become visible through the interpretivist analysis [14]. The interpretivist paradigm was operationalised using a case study strategy which enabled purposive engagements with participants during the data collection process [15].

Study area

The study area was Mantheding village which falls within the Dikgale Tribal Authority situated within Capricorn District Municipality, Polokwane Local Municipality in the Limpopo Province, South Africa, Figure 1.

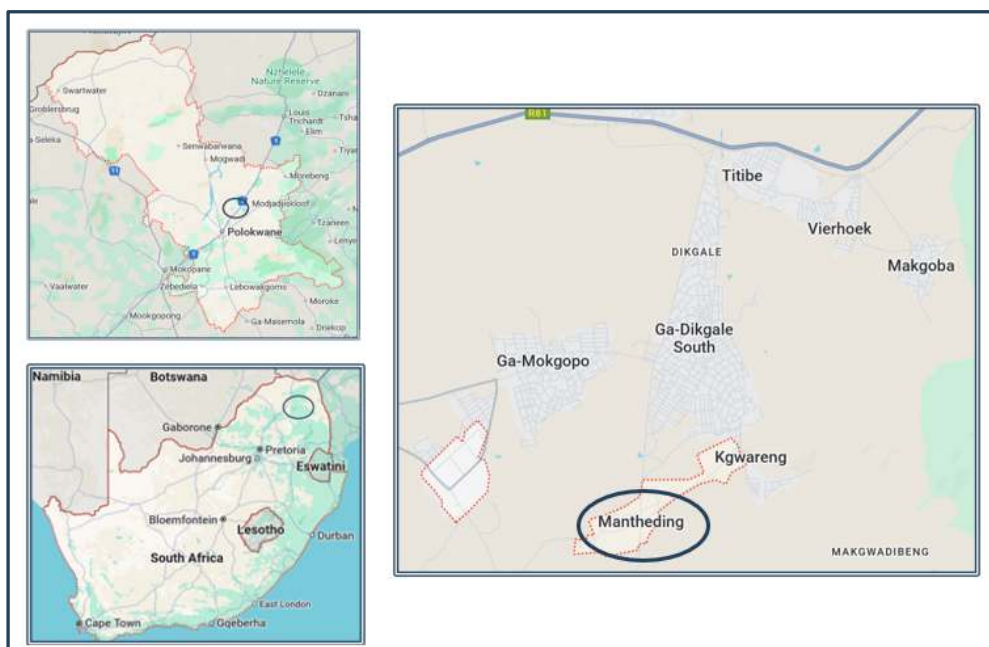


Figure 1: Area map of the research site

Source: https://www.google.com/maps/place/Ga-Dikgale/@-23.3929194,29.018256,12z/data=!4m6!3m5!1s0x1ec798c11f1e6aa5:0xa7dab6f55c55e116!8m2!3d-23.3982045!4d29.0176353!16s%2Fg%2F1trl84fw?entry=tту&_ep=EgoyMDI0MTEyNC4xIKXMDSoASAFQAw%3D%3D Accessed March 2024.

Mantheding village is located approximately 40 kilometres from Polokwane City and Sepedi is the dominant local language spoken [16]. Mantheding village was identified as the research site because the Initiative had been active there for more than five years and the highest concentration of small-scale farmers involved in the Initiative were located there.

Study population

This study focused on households in Dikgale Tribal Authority, which has a total of 23 villages with an estimated 9,000 residents which make up the community [17]. Thus, the target population of the study includes the estimated 84 small-scale farmers' households within the 23 villages who had been involved in the Initiative in the area.

Sampling

Out of the 23 villages in Dikgale Tribal Authority, the research team selected one village called Mantheding for data collection because it had the highest concentration of small-scale farmers who had benefitted from the Initiative for the previous five years. During the planning phases, the research team estimated 18 – 25 participants would be required for data collection. A non-probability sampling method was applied to purposively select small-scale farmers who were beneficiaries of the Initiative between 2021 to 2023 [18]. When data saturation was reached after interviewing 23 participants, it was decided not to continue because further interviews rarely elicit findings of extra value [19]. It was decided by the research team that data saturation had been reached after the final three interviews did not elicit any further data.

Ethical considerations

The entire research process was undertaken by applying the ethical codes of conduct required in South Africa [14] and received clearance from the Turfloop Research Ethics Committee (# TREC/1628/2023: PG), the Limpopo Office of the Premier's Research Committee (# LPREC/174/2023: PG) and the Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Prior to each interview informed consent was requested from each participant. Interview guides were written in English and translated into Sepedi which is the local language. During the back translation of the interviews one researcher did the initial translation and a second undertook the back translation. Both researchers kept this information confidential. The participants were treated with respect and dignity throughout. To maintain anonymity and confidentiality the participants' names were not used and all data were locked in a secure data repository.

Data collection

In-depth, semi-structured interviews (23) were used as the primary data collection method. The research instrument was piloted with three participants and modified prior to the primary data collection process. The open-ended questions focused on the effectiveness of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme on small-scale farmers' households in Dikgale Tribal Authority. Two example questions are provided below:

What type of support or resources has the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme provided you with?

What additional support or resources would you like to see provided by small scale agricultural projects like Fetša Tlala?

The interviews were conducted either in English or Sepedi, depending on the participants' preferred language [20]. The semi-structured interview guide was augmented by probing into specific aspects of a topic in order that a "thick description" would emerge [21]. The data were collected using an electronic recording device and note taking.

Data analysis

A thematic analysis was applied. A thematic analysis is a constant-comparison research technique that entails regular reading and re-reading of transcripts. The purpose of the process is to first develop and gradually refine the codes into broader themes using the following steps: familiarisation, coding, theme development of the data [22]. It is also a recommended strategy to request that the participants verify the findings of the analysis which was applied in this instance [23]. Figure 2 presents a methodological summary.

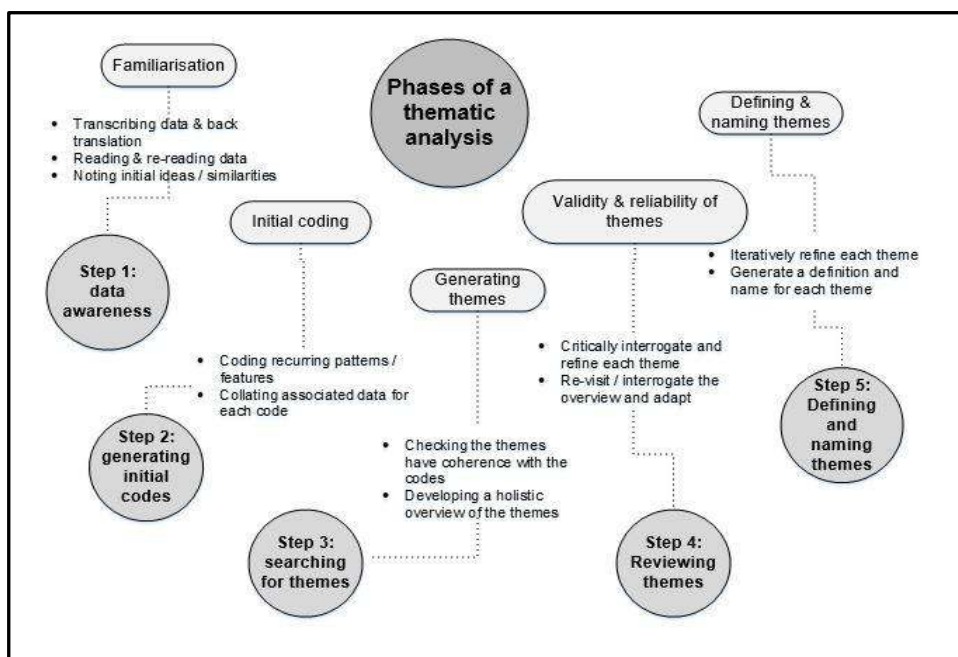


Figure 2: Summary of the thematic analysis that was applied
 Authors' contribution, adapted from Dawadi, 2021 [26]

Data coding and theme construction

Due to the limited number of interviews the data analysis was undertaken by the researchers without the use of software – other than the use of Visio to provide a schematic representation of the analysis. In order to become familiar with the dataset, one of the researchers transcribed and translated all the participants' responses into English and then a second researcher "back translated" in order to verify the original translation [24]. In order to construct the initial codes, the research team grouped all of the like-for-like responses into codes. These codes were similar words, phrases or short descriptions within the dataset. Once the initial coding was complete, the researcher grouped similar codes together to form broader themes. These themes represented patterns of recurring ideas that emerged from the dataset which were subsequently named. Six of these themes are discussed below.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Prior to introducing the information that emerged from the demographic profile of the participants is summarised. Table 1 demonstrates that the majority of the participants were aged 55 or more; had a broad educational background; were mostly retired or unemployed and were predominantly experienced small-scale farmers. The participants also reported that the Initiative had multiple impacts on their livelihood which is discussed below, under Theme B.

Theme A: Access to resources

The participants reported that the Initiative provided resources to the beneficiaries including seeds, cultivation tractor, livestock feeds, soil fertilisers, manure and pesticides. By supplying these resources, the participants have some confidence that the Initiative will support small-scale farmers to initiate and sustain agricultural activities.

"I have received manure and livestock feed. The tractor has also assisted me with farming. I now can assist those that are in need, and I can also feed my children." Participant 13

The resources and assistance provided by the Initiative encompassed a wide range of inputs and machinery for agricultural production. The relevance of small-holder farmers having access to these types of inputs in both south Africa and sub-Saharan Africa has been reported on by multiple sources because of the increased agricultural productivity that are associated with both inputs and machinery [25, 26].

Theme B: Livelihoods

In order to assess the effectiveness of the Initiative the participants were asked how the Initiative affected their livelihoods. Table 2 indicates that 26.1% of the participants reported that the Initiative has contributed to an increase in their income and that 69.6% experienced improvements in household food security. The participants also reported that the initiative had enhanced their social status within the community (65.2%) and improved their decision-making power (43.5%).

Despite the benefits of the Initiative, when asked about the longer-term sustainability of those benefits, 48% of participants indicated that 'yes' they believed it was possible to sustain the benefits, but 52% indicated 'no', the benefits were not sustainable. Despite this division, several long-term benefits were highlighted which are described below.

Improved food production, household food security and thus storage

Some participants reported an increase in food production, including staple crops such as maize, groundnut, beans and watermelon.

"When the tractor came, I managed to plough. During the harvesting season I was able to harvest mealie meal, groundnut, beans and watermelon." Participant 11

This increased production has contributed to improved agricultural outputs for some participants which, in turn, had beneficial impacts on their household food security. From a developmental perspective, the relevance of boosting household food security is now recognised as being a priority issue in marginalised rural contexts in Limpopo Province [27] and beyond in sub-Saharan Africa [28].



Furthermore, some participants mentioned that they are able to feed their children and access additional food staples that they previously did not have – which is also reported as being a priority area within South Africa [6] that is reinforced by the Sustainable Development Goals [29].

“It has enabled me to feed my family better and help the poor in one of the foundations and other community members with a mealie meal.” Participant 16

Local household food security was also boosted because the increased production of maize enabled some participants to make use of the local milling facility to grind and store the harvest.

“I store my maize meal at a milling company nearby. Each time I retrieve some, they deduct the corresponding kilograms from my account. This has increased household access to food.” Participant 14

The storage that was referred to by some participants primarily reflects access to the local milling facility, which is discussed below in the section relating to resilience.

Livestock care and health

Some participants indicated that the Initiative also assisted them by providing treatments such as injections for their livestock which is deemed relevant to agricultural productivity in South Africa [30].

“The Initiative has been helpful with taking care of my cattle by providing medication to help treat and prevent illnesses”. Participant 16

Participants also indicated that these treatments contributed to the overall health and productivity of their livestock which, in turn, contributed to household income which has also been reported on by multiple sources who argue that the linkages between livestock well-being and household income is significant [3, 31].

Soil fertility

The participants also asserted that the provision of fertilisers by the Initiative helped improve soil fertility which is recognised as being essential because of the impact of degraded soils and climate variability on small-scale farmers’ productivity in South Africa [32].

“The fertilisers were not enough to cover the entire field, but where we have managed to sprinkle the soil was fertile and we managed to harvest enough.” Participant 9

In summary, the Initiative has had positive impacts in terms of food security, agricultural production and livestock management for some participants. However,

as has been noted above, 48% of the participants reported long-term benefits from the Initiative and 52% reported no long-term benefits.

Theme C: Challenges and frustrations

Despite the reported benefits there are underlying challenges that had a deleterious impact on the effectiveness of the Initiative. The challenges and frustrations that the beneficiaries encountered included delayed provision of inputs, insufficient mentorship and inequitable distribution of services.

"I have not received any resources such as seedlings, fertilizers and nor have they sent a tractor to plough for me." Participant 18

"They do not give us enough fertiliser to cover the whole field. They have also not assisted us with cultivation, and we have not received any seeds yet." Participant 22

Based on the reported feedback from the participants, it does appear that the DARD implemented the Initiative in a disconnected, top-down manner. The disconnection is seemingly between the DARD and the beneficiaries. Specifically, these participant responses suggest that the delay in receiving inputs contributed to reduced harvests and, in some instances, crop failure. Similar inadequate institutional arrangements by the DARD managing the Initiative have also recently been reported in the same study area which suggests there is a need for internal reflection and subsequent improvement by the organising structures [33].

Furthermore, the lack of rainfall and the presence of pests also posed challenges to the participants because they adversely affected crop production – which is becoming an increasingly prevalent deleterious scenario within the context of climate variability in southern Africa [34, 35].

"I have a challenge with worms, insects and caterpillars that eat my corns and I can't harvest anything because they would have been destroyed." Participant 7

There were also disparities in the distribution of services among beneficiaries, with some receiving more assistance than others.

"My concern is that it has been long since they have sent the tractor, given me seeds and fertilisers to assist. I only received assistance before COVID-19." Participant 5

As a result, farming activities and productivity were disrupted which affected the ability of the farmers to store enough maize meal and undermined the Initiative's effectiveness.

Further to the challenges and frustrations identified above, livestock and human interference, cattle theft, and limitations in access to equipment such as adequate fencing exacerbated these challenges which are also recognised as being a widespread challenge for small-scale farmers [36]. Although these factors were not directly related to the initial research aim, they do indirectly affect the effectiveness of the Initiative so they are included below within the section Theme E: Resilience.

Theme D: Localised vulnerabilities

Though a significant number of participants reported that the Initiative has had a positive impact, some participants did not share the same sentiments.

“Since I joined the programme, I have not benefited from it yet. I hope I will benefit too soon.” Participant 15

Whilst it is uncertain why the new members of the Initiative did not benefit; it does provide an indication that the newer members were more vulnerable than the experienced members. Another localised vulnerability was the lack of access to support services and, in one instance, the unreliable response by a service provider.

“I have sent seedlings to a nearby laboratory for testing; however, I have not yet received feedback or help even after enquiring several times. The purpose was to determine whether the seedling will do good in the market and to learn more about it.” Participant 21

A further localised vulnerability was the combination of inadequate fencing to prevent livestock from entering the fields, lack of rainfall and human interference.

“The arable fields are not fenced, the roaming domestic animals such as goats, sheep and cattle are giving us a nightmare by destroying our crops. We also have people that destroy our crops.” Participant 12

“The challenges that we face as farmers are lack of rain and the fence is not adequate which leads to cattle thefts.” Participant 16

Whilst most of the issues that the participants discussed are largely outside the remit of the Initiative, they do provide indicators of the vulnerabilities that the small-scale farmers experience. However, the concern that was raised by the participants with regard to the unequal distribution of resources that were received by the DARD is more problematic. The findings from this research did not provide sufficient detail about these issues, but nevertheless it is an issue that cannot be overlooked. As such, the issue of inequality should be addressed whether through the DARD's own internal reflection process and/or further independent research. That being said, the participants did report resilience strategies to reduce the impact of these constraints.

Theme E: Resilience

In order to go some way to build resilience to the challenges, the participants formed a committee to organise themselves and share knowledge and experiences.

“As beneficiaries of the programme we saw it fit that we have a committee that will be representatives of the entire group.” Participant 1

Knowledge sharing was also mentioned by some of the participants.

“The programme managers should give us guidance on the type of crops to be planted in different seasons. As they did not provide guidance, we advised each other.” emphasis added, Participant 12

The combination of a self-organised committee and knowledge sharing may have contributed to the 43.5% of participants in Table 2, who reported their decision-making power was enhanced as a result of being part of the Initiative. The localised agency of small-scale farmers in South Africa to respond to challenges has also been widely reported on [37].

Another form of resilience was the use of the local milling facility that some of the small-scale farmers utilised to prepare and store their maize which contributed to their longer term, post-harvest household food security.

“Also, when I harvest mealie meal, I can take it to one of the milling companies around the area to be turned into maize meals which can also be sold to the community at large.” Participant 19

The utilisation of value-adding facilities in conjunction with small-scale agriculture has also been increasingly reported on [38].

Theme F: Community recommendations for improving the Initiative

The participants suggested the Initiative could be improved in several ways. Their recommendations included tractors, appropriate seeds, manure and fertilisers which should be provided in a timely, equitable manner to all beneficiaries.

“The fertilisers that I have received could only cover a certain portion of land. If they [DARD] provided these things as promised we would not have these problems.” Participant 6

“I request that after we have joined the programme, they should provide us with seeds and send a tractor after the raining season to assist us.” Participant 22

“They [DARD] should give offer support immediately after we have joined the programme.” Participant 14

The participants emphasised that timely assistance would enable farmers to start farming early in the season, thus maximising the agricultural season and improving harvests. Further to the infrastructural support, some participants suggested that there should be regular support by mentors and/or agricultural trainers.

"I only have little knowledge on how to farm. I would like the programme to assist and guide me. I believe with such information I will be able to plant and harvest more." Participant 12

Additionally, the farmers identified the types of support and/or resources which they believe can assist with combating the challenges they are currently facing. Due to the lack of rainfall, water supply infrastructure such as the installation of boreholes and/or water tanks would improve the water supply in the area.

"I hope they could assist us with boreholes and water tanks and give us carrots and spinach seeds." Participant 20

Some also requested access to land and diversification of crops.

"I currently do not have land. I would appreciate it if they offer land to plant my vegetables on a large scale and to provide us with different crops that can be harvested." Participant 3

"The programme should give us a variety of crops that can survive dry lands." Participant 16

It was also suggested that there should also be crop and livestock protection measures to prevent crop damage and human interference.

"I think they should assist us with erecting fences to avoid intrusion of stray animals and people, which makes us fight as fellow villagers." Participant 20

"They should also give us cattle force pens to avoid them straying around and ruining my crops and other peoples in nearby farms." Participant 18

The insights gathered from participants underscore the relevance of timely and consistent support from the operational managers of the Initiative, including the provision of resources such as seeds, fertilisers and tractors and robust mentorship and/or training programmes. The participants also recommended strategies to improve the overall impact of the Initiative including the provision of protective measures such as fencing, along with facilities for livestock management.

Summary

The findings display a reflection of the Initiative within the study area, Figure 3.

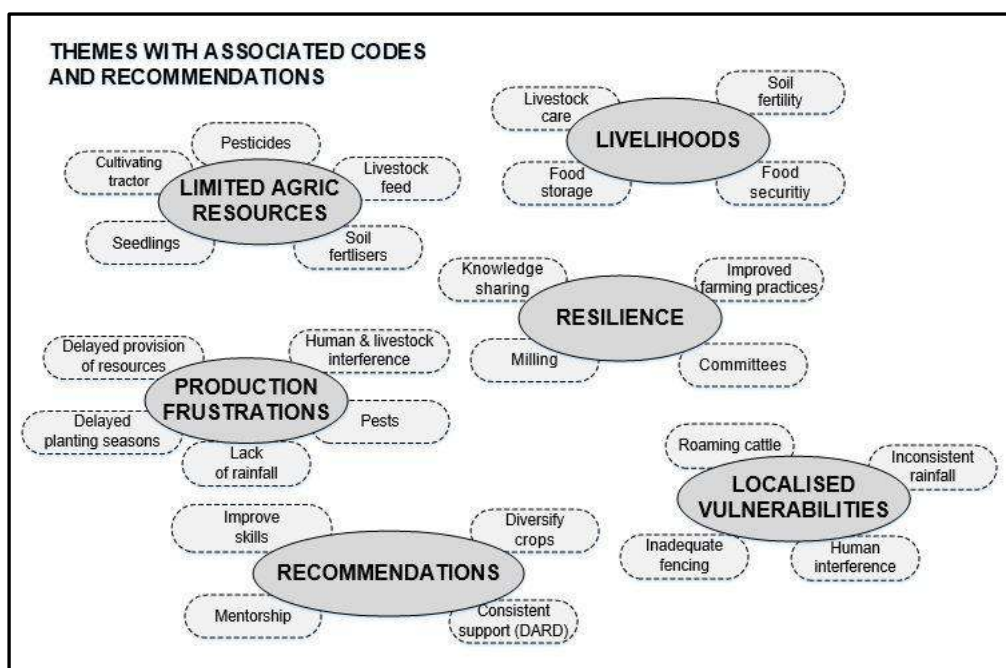


Figure 3: Overview: themes with associated codes

Researchers' contribution

Figure 3 provides a summary of the findings that emerged from the research which include:

- The positive aspects of the Initiative related to enhanced livelihood opportunities for some;
- The challenges and frustrations, including the limited agricultural inputs, related to the reported sub-optimal operationalisation of the Initiative by the DARD;
- The localised vulnerabilities provided real-world indicators relating to the local cultural dynamics of the community;
- The resilience developed by the beneficiaries reflects their agency; and
- The recommendations reflect the insights of the participants' opinions about improving the Initiative.

The bullet points above suggest that there is an intersection of both developmental issues and localised community dynamics at play. The localised dynamics include both the vulnerabilities of the beneficiaries and their resilience. It is evident that there are significant infrastructure challenges – such as fencing and human interference ('We also have people that destroy our crops', Participant 12) – which affect day-to-day operations of the beneficiaries. These localised dynamics are largely outside of the control of the DARD but do point towards the relevance of involving other structures within the Initiative so that these vulnerabilities can be, at least, reduced.

It is also evident that the Initiative was contextualised by broader local vulnerabilities. Within that context there were some gains and some frustrations. These were accompanied by recommendations from participants including timely and consistent provision of inputs and resources from the operational managers and additional infrastructural support such as fencing and irrigation equipment – as well as improved mentorship.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT

From a developmental perspective there are both governmental and agricultural dynamics which can be considered moving forward. The governmental dynamics are prompted by the participants' request for a more structured and supportive engagement framework with the DARD. Specifically, they highlighted the need for improved Initiative implementation, mentorship and support to enhance their resilience and productivity. In order for this to occur the DARD should reflect internally – as well as seek feedback from the beneficiaries – about the way in which they implement the Initiative because it is purposeless to supply inputs late in the growing season. To improve this performance the DARD should ensure logistical challenges are identified and rectified prior to the beginning of the growing season.

The agricultural concerns include the request for a “variety of crops that could survive dry lands”. Extrapolating these recommendations talks directly to climate-smart small-scale agricultural practices, which have been researched and reported on by multiple academic authors and practitioners [35]. Whilst climate-smart agriculture commands a vast literature, the gist is that given the contemporary global context of climate variability it is logical to take measures to mitigate against climate shocks as best as possible. From the perspective of improving the Initiative it seems fair to suggest that the DARD expands its planning horizons to be inclusive of climate smart technologies, within its budgetary constraints.

In conclusion, a high percentage of participants (91.3%) would recommend the initiative programme to other farmers or individuals that are interested in small-scale farming. Likewise, some participants have benefitted through the programme. However, as with all endeavours, critical, on-going reflection and learning is required to produce incremental gains for all involved. Addressing these recommendations could lead to better adoption of new practices and technologies, ultimately improving long-term and sustainable outcomes of the Fetša Tlala Food Production Initiative in the future.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors would like to acknowledge the extension officers of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme for the insightful interaction that contributed to the



strengthening of this study and the participants of this study for their willingness to take part and contribute their insights and experiences.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest related to this research, authorship, and/or publication of this study.

Table 1: Summary of the participants’ demographic profile

Category	Summary
Age	4.3% of the participants were aged between 45-54 years and 95.7% were aged between 55 or more years
Education	44% of the participants had education up to, or below, primary school level; 39% had completed secondary school and 17% had pursued education at college or university level
Employment status	26% of the participants were unemployed; 70% were retired with over five years of professional experience and 4% of the participants were retired but were self-employed
Experience of small-scale farming	96% of the participants had 5 or more years of experience in small-scale farming

Author’s contribution

Table 2: Enhanced livelihoods

Livelihoods	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
Increased income	6	26.1%
Improved food security	16	69.6%
Enhanced social status within the community	15	65.2%
Enhanced decision-making power	10	43.5%
Other (please specify below)	7	30.4%

Researchers’ contribution

Appendix A: Semi-structured interview guide

Appendices A1 and A2 contain the English and Sepedi versions of the semi-structured interview guide that was used during the data collection phase of the study.

Appendix A1: Semi-structured interview guide (English version) Semi-structured Questionnaire for Participants

Topic: Assessing the effects of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme on small-scale farmers' households at a selected village in Polokwane Local Municipality, South Africa

SECTION A: Demographic profile of participants

1. Gender

Male		Female:		Prefer not to say:	
:					

1. Age of participants

18-24 years	
25-34 years	
35-44 years	
45-54 years	
55 and above	
Prefer not to say	

2. Educational background:

Primary School or below	
Secondary School	
College/University degree	
Other, specify below	

3. Are you employed?

Yes		N		o	
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If yes, state occupation:

4. Number of working experience (if applicable):

0 years/less than a year	
1-2 years	
2-3 years	
3-4 years	
years and above	

5. Are you a small-scale farmer?

Yes	N o	
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If yes, how many years have you been involved in farming?

Less than 1 year	
1-2 years	
2-3 years	
3-4 years	
5 years and above	

Section 2: Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme Information

1. Are you familiar with the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme in Ga-Dikgale Village?

Yes	N o	
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If yes, how did you become aware of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme?

2. Are you currently participating in the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme?

Yes	N o	
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If yes, how long have you been participating in the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme?

Less than 1 year	
1-2 years	
2-3 years	
4. years	
5 years and above	

3. What is your understanding of the goals and objectives of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme?

4. What type of support or resources has the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme provided you with? List below.

5. Does the programme get support from the community?

Yes	N o	
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Section 3: Assessment

1. How has your participation in the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme affected your farming practices? (Select all that apply)

Improved agricultural techniques	
Increased crop yield	
Diversification of crops	
Improved soil fertility	
Reduced post-harvest losses	
Increased income	
Other (please specify below)	

2. How has the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme contributed to improving your livelihood? (Select all that apply)

Increased income	
Improved food security	
Enhanced social status within the community	
Improved access to education and healthcare	
Enhanced decision-making power	
Other (please specify below)	

3. What are the challenges or limitations in implementing the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme on your farm?

4. Have you been able to sustain the benefits gained from the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme in the long term?

Yes		N	
		o	

5. What are the benefits of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme in the long term?

6. How do you rate the overall impact of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme on small-scale farmers in your community?

Poor	
Average	
Good	
Excellent	

7. What are the effects of the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme in your community?

Section 4: Recommendations and Future Support

1. What improvements would you suggest for the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme to enhance its impact?
2. What additional support or resources would you like to see provided by small scale agricultural projects like Fetša Tlala?
3. Would you recommend the Fetša Tlala Food Initiative Programme to other farmers or individuals interested in small scale farming?

Yes	N o	
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4. Any additional comments or suggestions you would like to provide?

Thank you for your participation! Your responses will be kept confidential and used for research purposes only.

Appendix A2: Semi-structured interview guide (Sepedi version) Lenaneopotšišo leo le Rulagantšwego la Batšeakarolo

Topic: Go Lekola Ditlamorago tša Lenaneo la Boithomelo bja Dijo la Fetša Tlala Malapeng a Balemirui ba Balemirui ba Bagolo Motseng wo o Kgethilwego Ka Mmasepaleng wa Selegae wa Polokwane, Afrika Borwa.

KAROLO YA A: Profaele ya palo ya batho ya batšwasehlabelo

1. Bong

Monna	Mosadi	Kgetha go se bolele
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2. Mengwaga ya motšeakarolo

Mengwaga ye 18-24	
Mengwaga ye 25-34	
Mengwaga ye 35-44	
Mengwaga ye 45-54	
55 le go feta	
Kgetha go se bolele:	

3. Semelo sa thuto:

Sekolo sa Praemari goba ka tlase	
Sekolo sa Sekontari	
Legoro la Kholetšhe/Yunibesithi	
Tše dingwe, hlalosa ka tlase	

4. Na wa šoma?

Ee		Aowa	
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Ge e ba ee, o šoma go dirang:

5. Palo ya maitemogelo a mošomo (ge e le gore o a šoma):

0 mengwaga/ka fase ga ngwaga	
Mengwaga ye 1-2	
Mengwaga ye 2-3	
Mengwaga ye 3-4	
Mengwaga ye 5 le go feta	

6. Na o molemi wa tekanyo ye nyenyane?

Ee		Aowa	
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Ge e le gore ee, ke mengwaga ye mekae yeo o bilego le karolo go bolemirui?

Ka fase ga ngwaga	
Mengwaga ye 1-2	
Mengwaga ye 2-3	
Mengwaga ye 3-4	
Mengwaga ye 5 le go feta	

Karolo 2: Tshedimošo ya Lenaneo la Boithomelo bja Dijo bja Fetša Tlala

1. Na o wa e tseba Lenaneo la Fetša Tlala ka Motseng wa Ga-Dikgale?

Ee		Aowa	
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Ge eba ee, o ile wa lemoga bjang Lenaneo la Boithomelo bja Dijo la Fetša Tlala?

2. Na ga bjale o tšea karolo Lenaneong la Fetša Tlala Food Initiative?

Ee		Aowa	
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Ge e le gore ee, ke nako ye kaakang o tšea karolo mo Lenaneong la Fetša Tlala Food Initiative?

Ka fase ga ngwaga	
Mengwaga ye 1-2	
Mengwaga ye 2-3	
Mengwaga ye 3-4	
Mengwaga ye 5 le go feta	

1. Naa kwešišo ya gago ke efe ka ga maikemišetšo a Lenaneo la Boithomelo bja Dijo la Fetša Tlala?

2. Ke mohuta ofe wa thekgo goba methopo yeo Lenaneo la Boithomelo bja Dijo la Fetša Tlala le go filego yona?

3. Na lenaneo le hwetša thekgo go tšwa setšhabeng?

Ee		Aowa	
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Karolo ya 3: Tekolo

1. Go kgatha tema ga gago mo lenaneong la Boithomelo bja Dijo la Fetša Tlala go amile bjang mekgwa ya gago ya bolemirui? (Kgetha tšohle tšeo di lego maleba)

Dithekniiki tša temo tše di kaonafetšego	
Poelo ye e oketšegilego ya dibjalo	
Go fapafapana ga dibjalo	
Monono wa mmu wo o kaonafetšego	
Ditahlegelo tše di fokotšegilego tša ka morago ga puno	
Letseno le le oketšegilego	
Tše dingwe (ka kgopelo laetša ka fase)	

2. Lenaneo la Boithomelo bja Dijo la Fetša Tlala le bile le seabe bjang go kaonafatša maphelo a gago?

Koketšego ya letseno	
Tšhireletšo ya dijo ye e kaonafetšego	
Maemo a leago ao a kaonafetšego ka gare ga setšhaba	
Phihlelelo ye e kaonafetšego ya thuto le tlhokomelo ya maphelo	
Matla a go tšea diphetho a go oketša	
Tše dingwe (ka kgopelo laetša ka fase)	

3. Ke ditlhohlo goba mafokodi afe a go phethagatša lenaneo la Boithomelo bja Dijo la Fetša Tlala mo polaseng ya gago?

4. Naa o kgonne go tšwetša pele meholo yeo e hweditšwego go tšwa go lenaneo la Boithomelo bja dijo la Fetša Tlala ka nako ye telele?

Ee		Aowa	
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1. Ke meholo efe ya lenaneo la Boithomelo bja Dijo la Fetša Tlala ka nako ye telele?

2. Naa o lekanyetša bjang khuetšo ka kakaretšo ya lenaneo la Boithomelo bja Dijo la Fetša Tlala go balemirui ba bannyane mo setšhabeng sa geno?

A go botse	
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Gare	
Gabotse	
Gabotse Kudu	

3. Ke ditlamorago dife tša Lenaneo la Boithomelo bja Dijo la Fetša Tlala mo setšhabeng sa geno?

Karolo ya 4: Ditšhišinyo le Thekgo ya Bokamoso

1. Ke dikaonafatšo dife tšeo o ka šišinyago gore Lenaneo la Boithomelo bja Dijo la Fetša Tlala e godiše khuetšo ya yona?

2. Ke thekgo efe ya tlaleletšo goba methopo yeo o ratago go e bona e fiwa ke diprotšeke tše nnyane tša temo go swana le Fetša Tlala?

3. Naa o ka kgothaletša Lenaneo la Boithomelo bja Dijo la Fetša Tlala go balemirui ba bangwe goba batho bao ba nago le kgahlego ka temothuo ye nnyane?

Ee		Aowa	

1. Na go na le ditshwayotshwayo goba ditšhišinyo tše dingwe tšeo o ratago go di fa?

Ke leboga go tšea karolo ga gago! Dikarabo tša gago di tla bolokwa e le sephiri gomme tša šomišetšwa merero ya nyakišišo fela.

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