

Households as food security hubs for the development of Kgwaripe in Ga-Seloane, Lepelle-Nkumpi, South Africa

## **Abstract**

Households as the smallest units of the community in Kgwaripe, Ga-Seloane in the Lepelle-Nkumpi Local Municipality possess greater potential to mutate into viable rural food security hubs. This proposal researches on the potential of members of the community of Kgwaripe to participate in an agricultural concept of one-household one agricultural product, as part of food security and poverty reduction.

It is anticipated that the research will contribute to the body of knowledge and understanding of agricultural alternative programmes, technological support, technical support and innovative methods to be put in place to produce food and ways which can be identified and implemented by members of the community as the pre-steps towards food security, poverty alleviation, job creation and sustainable rural development within the context of Local Economic Development.

The research will use both qualitative and quantitative research designs in which a questionnaire and interviews used to collect data. The proposal suggest that there is a need to establish a community that is dependent on agriculture and provide the necessary supporting infrastructure in order to enhance households micro business development in a rural setting set out to directly reduce poverty and joblessness..

The contribution of this research will be modelled around the prescripts of Local Economic Development seeking to empower the community of Kgwaripe towards sustainable development, self-sufficiency and community cohesion while generating potential income from excess financial resources accrued from excess agricultural products produced within the community.

*Key words: Households, food security, poverty reduction, local economic development.*

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## **1. Introduction**

The practical implementation of Local Economic Development programs in a South African context at a rural based setting, particularly in the previously disadvantaged areas is something that requires deeper understanding and research. The theory behind Local Economic Development as adopted by the South African Government is premised on strategies that should impact on the general livelihood of communities. The thought of improved community livelihood in this research should be expanded to economic development through agriculture in a household setting.

The stimulation of economic development and growth in a rural setting, within a defined context of Local Economic Development is biased towards food security and poverty alleviation. The research is referencing the National Development Plan (2030 Vision). The concept is premised on the participation of members of respective the households and the community of Kgwaripe in an agricultural programme aimed at enhancing food security and job creation with a bigger picture of creating self-sustaining small, micro and medium rural agriculture based enterprises.

The concept is anticipating to create sustainable individual and generally improved and enhanced livelihoods for the community of Kgwaripe.

## **2. Literature Review**

### **2.1. Local Economic Development; an international perspective**

The World Bank defines Local Economic Development as a purposeful program to build the economic capacity of a local area to increase its economic prospect and the value of life for entire community. The bank further outlines that LED processes should involve public, business and nongovernmental sectors that should work collectively to create better conditions for economic growth and employment generation as such improving the economic competitiveness of a particular area.

World Bank (2003) suggests that the alleviation of poverty should happen within a context of integrating Local Economic Development principles to provide poor communities with basic services such water, electricity, roads, health care, education safety and security and sewerage.

The World Bank also states that LED should be implemented within a context of partnership between the public, business community, non-governmental organisations and the community, working as a collective to create an enabling environment for the development of better conditions for economic growth and employment. Local Economic Development is therefore understood to be providing an opportunity to locals to work together in the quest to improve their quality of lives (World Bank, 2005).

A cooperative model can be pursued by members of the community in the form of (amongst other cooperative models) the agricultural cooperatives (Phillip, 2003). Therefore, active community participation is of prime essence. Community driven initiatives have a way of giving participants an opportunity to earn a living while conserving their local customs and traditions (Pretorius & Blaauw, 2008), for the attainment of local development and promotion of self-sufficiency within a regional, national, continental and global context (DPLG, 2006). Bagchi (2000) states that collaborative actions amongst citizens and officials to realize and utilise new economic opportunities for trade and profitable production is strategically important.

### **2.2. Local Economic Development; the African context**

The African Economic Outlook (AEO) (2016) outlines that Africa's economic performance and growth held firm in 2015 remaining the second fastest growing economy after Asia at 3.6% better than the 3.1% for the global economy and 1.5% for the euro area, within a context of global economic hardships due to resilient private consumption, public infrastructure development and private investment.

The AEO further states that the rapid urbanisation in Africa ushers in opportunities for urban and rural dwellers in the form of infrastructure, wide ranging urban policies that could turn African cities and towns into engines of sustainable structural transformation. The new urban policies as stated by the AEO at local and national levels could have an important catalytic role in economic development through agricultural productivity, industrialisation and services.

Furthermore, other opportunities of development include: social development with safer and inclusive urban housing, social safety nets, and sound environmental management to address climate change and its effects, scarcity of water, controlling air pollution, developing clean public transportation systems, improved waste collection and increased access to energy.

### **2.3. Local Economic Development; the South African context**

The South African government has adopted Local Economic Development as one of its strategic tools to deal the post 1994 socio-economic and developmental challenges such as extreme inequalities in income, assets and basic social services (Nel & Hymphrys, 1999). Research has further confirmed that

in an average South African family and household, poverty, illiteracy, survivalist and unhygienic environments prevail within a context of high unemployment (Reitzes, 2004). Malefane (2009) further noted that LED as a municipal intervention is not implemented efficiently, and with the skewed apartheid spatial development planning, the majority of the South African people and their communities are alienated from major economic activities, as such uprooted from their original economic means of subsistence and family systems.

It is based on the above arguments that authors and researches such as Davids in the 2005 article suggested that in order to address the injustices of the past, development efforts in the South African context should adopt a people-centred approach. Theron (2005) describes such an approach as shifting of interventions towards the public therefore enhancing public skills and capacities by encouraging community participation in development processes.

Based on what Marais and Botes (2008) raised, stating the existing confusion between LED and poverty alleviation, it is anticipated that the Kgwaripe agriculture initiative should be defined within the paradigm of poverty alleviation focused on food security and stipules of LED whereby major economic thrusts that should result in poverty alleviation need to be gradually inculcated into the thought processes of the community.

Therefore, policy provisions on LED should be brought to active implantation of economic programs adapted to take a shape of being pro-poor and pro-poor growth intervention mechanism (Rogerson, 2003), with tangible fruitful or effective functionalisation of LED programs (Phago, 2004).

Noting critical arguments put forward by Meyer-Stamer (2002) on non-clarity as to whether municipalities are supposed to be drivers, facilitators or active observer of LED processes as driven by local business sectors, the Kgwaripe agriculture initiative is expected to serve as a case study whereby other communities could benchmark on.

The status of municipalities in the South African context is seen as within the system of government indispensable (Steyler, Titus, Carrim & Mkhali, 2002). They further state that government is bestowed with making sure that policies and programs are coordinated and aligned.

2.4. Local Economic Development; the Limpopo context

2.5. Local Economic Development; the Lepelle-Nkumpi Municipal context

2.6. Local Economic Development; implementation context in Ga-Seloane, Kgwaripe community

### **3. Methodology**

The research has been conducted using both the qualitative and quantitative data collection methods, with semi-structured questionnaires focusing on potential Kgwaripe agricultural program participants in Kgwaripe.

The research process was built on the hypothesis that LED initiatives focused on food security are viable in Kgwaripe. The data analysed was obtained from individual households through face-to-face interviews and the answering of a questionnaire distributed to the 30 households which provided detailed description of their real situations on the ground in relation to the Kgwaripe agriculture initiative.

A total of 49 households were identified as potential participants in the Kgwaripe food security program. A total of 12 (24.5%) household respondents were interviewed. The participants interviewed have adequate experience and authority to take decisions on their respective interest to participate in the food security initiative. It is anticipated that the food security project has the potential to change the economic course of Kgwaripe to the best competitive food secured status by producing specific or various agricultural products for domestic use and even for commercial trading to other markets outside Kgwaripe, for income generation, whereby over time, the community can begin to value-chain some of the excess produced products.

Filed notes were used to record data in addition to the interview schedule. The research was conducted over a period of one (1) day, in the form of a focused group interview.

#### **4. Findings**

The LED Unit met with the Ga-Seloane Traditional Council on the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018, and it was unanimously agreed that the agrarian concept is acceptable and can be implementable in Kgwaripe. A consultative meeting with stakeholders was held on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at Sealamagoro School accompanied by the Headman (Ntona), Ward Councillor and a member of the Ward Committee responsible for LED.

Twelve (12) respondents were part of the contact session inclusive of the head man. 3 questions were asked for the respondents to answer. The responses are summarised in the narrative report below.

##### **4.1. General Information about Kgwaripe and the respondents**

Kgwaripe is a small village comprising of 49 households. Cell phone coverage is not good, as a result, any need to conduct electronic transactions or research on anything on the internet is limited.

Each house has a 50/50 meters yard. From the twelve respondents, 41.7% households have no fences to serve as a basic barrier or protection of their properties, and contrary 58.3% have fences.

There is currently very little economic activity taking place in each household with very few keeping livestock and minor crop planting. The respondents are not in the municipal indigent register, meaning that they are spending on their meagre financial resource to pay for the limited services such as electricity.

- 4.1.1. Hundred percent (100%) of the respondents reside in Kgwaripe.
- 4.1.2. Fifty eight percent (58%) of the interviewed personnel have no means of income, while twenty percent (25%) of the respondents are working, with 8.3% not working. A further 8.3% are receiving and living on government grants.
- 4.1.3. Hundred percent of the respondents have lived over 11 years in the village of Kgwaripe and have deeper knowledge of the area and its environment.
- 4.1.4. Hundred percent of the respondents have an experience of farming crops on a smaller scale in the past. The sentimental memories of farming are very nostalgic to the respondents.
- 4.1.5. The majority of the respondents (100%) live in poverty with no guaranteed means of earning an income.
- 4.1.6. Some of the agricultural products they are well versed in farming are traditional crops such as sorghum, watermelon, pumpkin, tomatoes, spinach etc. There is a potential to introduce other viable agricultural products depending on the suitability of the soil in Kgwaripe.
- 4.1.7. Hundred percent of the respondents believe that Kgwaripe is the most suitable place for a food security program, and are eager to participate with possible future prospects of growing.

- 4.1.8. Almost all the respondents are eager to participate in a product bartering scheme with neighbours and the general farming community of Kgwaripe, whereby food can be exchanged for fighting against poverty and enhance food security. Furthermore, the respondents are prepared to sell their excess produce to anyone from outside Kgwaripe to generate extra income that could be used to improve on their respective livelihood and production.
- 4.1.9. The respondents have no clear clue as to where they could establish a trading zone in Kgwaripe for any of their excess products, however, that could be decided as the household-based food program grows and there is a necessity to create a common trading post for customers coming from outside Kgwaripe.
- 4.1.10. There is currently no one amongst them who could provide transport for their agricultural produce if there is a need to supply the outside market away from Kgwaripe.

## 4.2. Services

Kgwaripe is a typical rural village in the middle of nowhere, strategically located next to Lepelle River. The following is a summarised account about the services the village is exposed to:

- 4.2.1. **Water** – Hundred percent (100%) of the respondents have no water connections or supply into their respective yards, however, there are communal taps where each household collect water from, though the supply is not regular nor consistent. The research did not determine the frequency of water supply. All the respondents interviewed are prepared to pay for water as long as supply and quality is of acceptable standard.
- 4.2.2. **Sanitation** – Hundred percent of the respondents use pit toilets, with little prospects of any water-borne sewer system.
- 4.2.3. **Waste removal** – there are waste removal services in Kgwaripe. This has a potential of creating environmental challenges in the future if no mitigating plans are put in place to deal with waste management and any possible waste recycling strategies such composting etc. alternatively, the respondents believe that the municipality need to extend its waste removal services to Kgwaripe in the long run.
- 4.2.4. **Roads** – there is a connecting main road between Kgwaripe and its adjacent villages such as Malatane and Byldrift though its condition is dire and therefore need to be upgraded from gravel to tar. Internal streets have been created but need urgent attention of either being gravelled regularly, paved or tarred to enhance the aesthetic outlook of the village.
- 4.2.5. **Electricity** – Hundred percent of the respondents confirmed having access to a reliable and sustained supply of electricity in their respective households, however not affordable. Furthermore all of them are not on any indigent program to qualify them for free basic electricity. For security reasons, all decried lack of street lights to enhance visibility during the night.

## 5. Discussion

Based on the above findings, it is evident from the research that though the twelve respondents represented 24.5% of the total households, the information provided is so overwhelming that the village is open to prospects of positive development if good programs of food security can be put in place.

There are basic actions that need urgent attention in order to turn around the development prospects of Kgwaripe:

### 5.1. Water reticulation

There is an urgent need to reticulate water into the yards of each household. This will enhance the possibility of allowing various economic activities happening from each household to be pooled. Members confirmed their preparedness to pay for sustainable clean water. Though it was not sourced how payment methods could be done, it is suggested that a prepaid can be piloted in Kgwaripe with the establishment of kiosk at the same place where electricity is being bought. Those qualifying to be in the indigent program should be encouraged to register to track on the payment of services supplied to the village.

### **5.2. Electricity supply**

Electricity supply is currently adequate as confirmed by the respondents. There is a need to look into assisting those who are burdened by the high costs of electricity by encouraging them to be registered into the municipal indigent register.

### **5.3. Roads**

The road connection into Kgwaripe should be prioritised for upgrading. Internal streets also need to be maintained. This will enhance the livelihood of the village and further maintain transported goods in and out of the village in good quality.

### **5.4. Waste removal**

The municipality in particular the environment and waste management units need to prioritise setting up systems and capacity building programs on waste management, recycling and value chaining of waste. This assist in minimising any potential negative environmental impact in Kgwaripe.

### **5.5. Agricultural development support programs**

It is imperative that the Department of Agriculture Lepelle-Nkumpi should come on board to offer expert guidance and support on the site-based food security program in Kgwaripe

#### **5.5.1. Soil testing**

The department of Agriculture should assist with its expertise and test the soil type in Kgwaripe and the actual variety of prime products that could be produced in the area. This will shorten the commercialisation of the produce and also improve on the quality of products consumed by the same members of the community in the long run.

#### **5.5.2. Product identification**

The department should scientifically guide and recommend on the actual prime products to be farmed in Kgwaripe. Alternative food security products should also be suggested to mitigate any possibility of compromising the idea of food production for household and community consumption.

#### **5.5.3. Infrastructure support**

There is a need to supply relevant agricultural infrastructure on a smaller scale to the participating households. This will take various facets with any available sponsor(s) encouraged to invest in Kgwaripe. The Community Works Program can be one of the relevant and important stakeholder in this regard.

CSIR, the University of Limpopo, Department of Rural Development, Public Works, and Capricorn District Municipality are some of the important stakeholders that should be engaged.

#### **5.5.4. Equipment and tools**

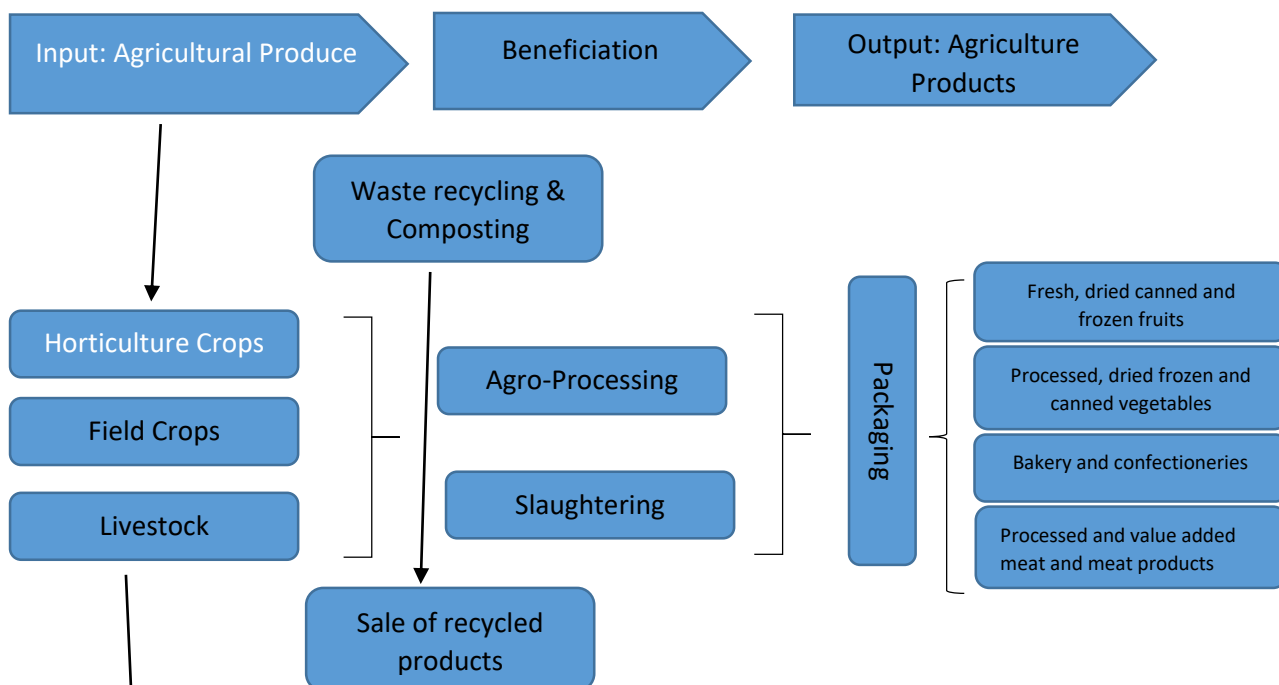
For the program to succeed, there is a need to harness opportunities of investing in relevant tools and equipment that will be utilised on a daily basis during processes of production, storage, packaging, and selling of residue products from Kgwaripe.

**5.5.5. Network coverage**

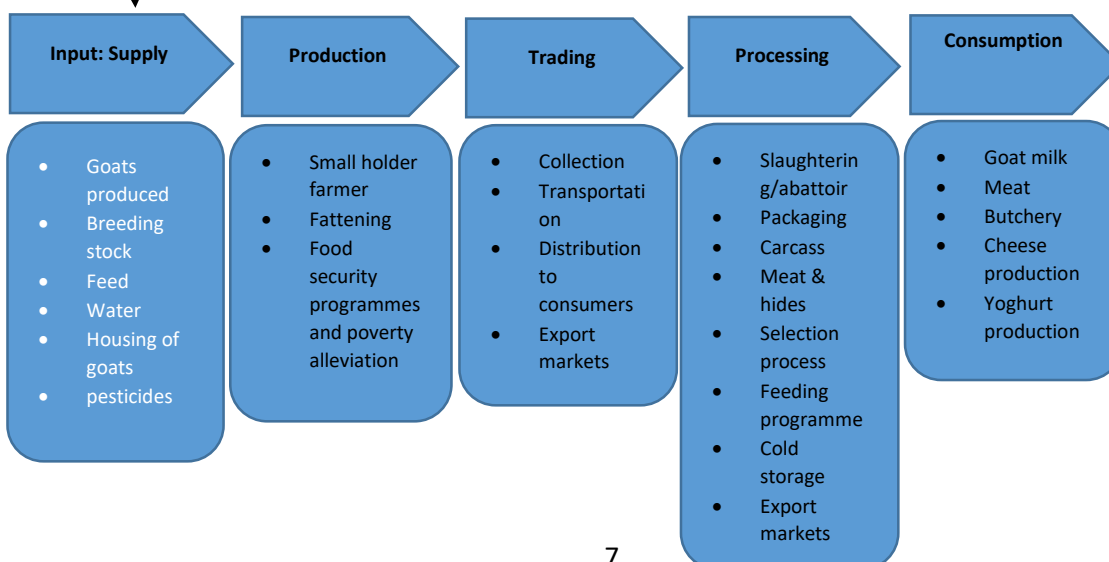
Findings have indicated that cellular phone and internet connection is a problem in Kgwaripe. Plans should be put in place to improve on network connectivity. The improvement of connectivity in the area will enhance simple activities such as financial transacting, research, and the general compliance to the Fourth Revolution technologically.

**6. Process towards a rural economic model for rural development through agriculture**

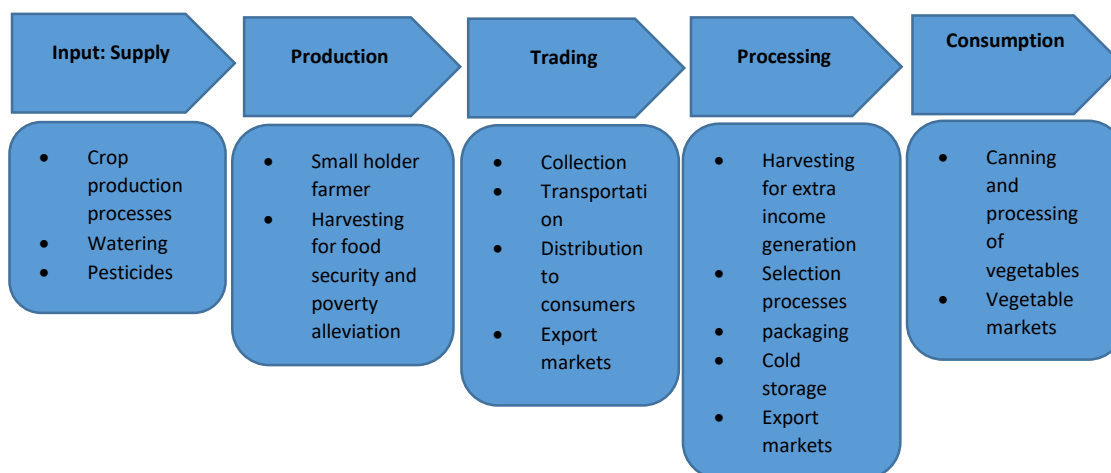
The schematic representation below is one of the suggested blue-print of what should happen in Kgwaripe to channel development in the area. It should be noted that this represent all aspects parts in agriculture and can be contextualised to each agricultural cluster (Horticulture crops, field crops and livestock) as indicated.



**6.1. Example of a production and value adding process for livestock (Goats)**



## 6.2. Example of a production and value adding process for crops



## 7. Recommendation

The research conducted might not have exhausted all aspects regarding turning around the economic environment in Kgwaripe, into a pilot project and model for rural development.

It is therefore recommended that through other supporting efforts and the active participation of the households in Kgwaripe to achieve the desired food security aspirations, the following quick wins be prioritised:

- 7.1. Re-enforcement of fences in all the Kgwaripe households,
- 7.2. Water reticulation into the respective households,
- 7.3. Ensure sustained supply of fresh quality water to the community,
- 7.4. Finalisation of agricultural products suitable to be produced,
- 7.5. Installation of relevant agriculture supporting infrastructure,
- 7.6. Landscaping of public open spaces to allow leisure activities, and
- 7.7. Improve the general layout of the village and suggested future growth points and direction

## 8. Conclusion

It is anticipated that the research will kick-start a typical rural development programme that will serve as a benchmark for other previously disadvantaged areas. The food security program in Kgwaripe might look like a far-fetched dream, but the researcher believes that it is doable and achievable.

Stakeholders interviewed are very positive that the concept is clear to them and can be kick-started with small beginnings that should lead to a viable self-sustaining community.