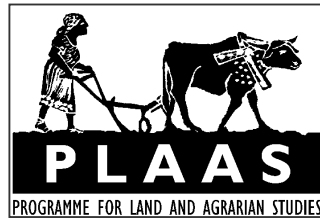




AFRA Association For
Rural Advancement

and



SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT
University of the Western Cape

Towards a Vision and Policy Proposals for Land & Agrarian Reform

A Rural People's Workshop jointly hosted by the
Association for Rural Advancement (AFRA) and
Programme for Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS)
10-11 September 2007
Newcastle, Amajuba District, KwaZulu-Natal

Workshop Report

Monday 10 September 2007

Welcome and introductions

Thabo Manyathi of AFRA welcomed the participants and outlined the purpose of the workshop. He indicated that the workshop is for farm dwellers living in Amajuba, to discuss our future as people living on farms and how we would like to improve our lives where we live, and relations on the farms.

Participants indicated their expectations:

- To get more information on the rights of the landless
- To work together for the upliftment of the landless
- Tolerance and cooperation
- To use knowledge gained to advance my cause
- To share the knowledge gained here with other people living on farms
- To come out of here with a programme of uplifting the farm residents
- To get information about our applications and be able to track our applications.

Situation analysis

The participants discussed their current situations in group discussions – including one group of women only. The groups discussed their current situations, specifically: What do we see changing in our lives and our circumstances? What is staying the same? How is change affecting you? Why is it affecting you positively or negatively?

Reportback

Group 1 (women and men)

- Legislation and policies are not working and are not protecting the farm dwellers. There are still evictions that are proceeding on farms.
- In terms of development, there is a wider problem. This has many elements that affect people's livelihoods. In order to resolve the problem of development on farms, we need to be involved in the IDPs
- The property clause in the constitution is still a problem for us – it gives farm owners powers to evict people from farms
- There is still a shortage of information on farms – we do not have enough to understand how the laws can protect us
- Organisations like AFRA are the only ones that assist us with information about these policies
- Ownership of land is still a problem. There is no information from DLA about who is owning the land – often we find that the owners are in fact just leasing the land. We still need information about the land audit
- DLA officials are biased towards landowners and there is nepotism in terms of employment; many of our problems are not due to government, but due to the officials themselves
- We have enough skills to use the land; what we need is agricultural extension to assist in terms of scientific information
- Land is still under white farmers. As a result there is conflict between farmers and farm dwellers. DLA seems to be taking the side of the white farmers.
- There is still oppression in terms of delivery on the side of DLA: there is little delivery in terms of title deeds. This might be one of the government's delaying tactics to only use farm dwellers as voting machines as they only remembered people during voting time.
- Local government institutions still hide behind the issue of title deed in order to deliver services on farms.
- The issue of S25 in the constitution (property clause) needs to be crept (?); farmers leave the farms and others lease them to other farmers; then they have rights on farms not belonging to them and they make life difficult for farm dwellers. In that case it is important that DLA reveal the information on the land audit. The government needs to do a land audit as a matter of urgency.
- The government strategies change every year – in order to delay delivery of land – because they know that older people are dying and the younger generation are not participating in the land struggle and also seem to have no interest in it. Government is taking advantage of that situation.
- The government process to buy land takes so long that in some cases the land owner sells to another person. This is a problem.

Group 2 (women only)

- We understand more in terms of the struggle than the men; sometimes the men are afraid of the response of the landowners, or agree with them, and ask us why we are raising these issues. It seems that men are taking the back-seat in our campaigns because they fear eviction of our families **or negative impacts to their jobs or livelihoods.**
- We don't have land or water. For this reason, there is a lack of development of the land. This increases crime and causes the lack of infrastructure.
- We women don't have information in terms of the institutions we need to go to when our rights have been violated. Women cannot even know how far our rights go, so that we can take action when our rights are violated. It seems that these human rights are there for other people, not for us as women who live on farms. Information does not reach the women on farms, even on health problems, like HIV. We know that there is HIV, but the information about what we should do when we have someone sick at home does not reach us. This makes the disease spread easily and we have people dying in our homes. The shortage of health information makes it difficult to know what food they should eat and what they should not eat. We don't know which institutions we can access, like mobile clinics.
- The shortage of information also makes it difficult for us to understand what is development. We do not know where are we in terms of development, and where to from here. For example, people working on farms do not know about different departments, like welfare (social development) that they can apply to.
- We have not got the KZN food security programme – we have just heard that it exists. Even if they are there, these programmes do not reach us or benefit us.
- The programmes that are aimed to deal with poverty should target the women in the rural areas. They should also address the problems that affect women in their homes.
- The death of husbands is a problem for us, because when our husbands die we as women get evicted, and this violates our rights and changes our lives, and we have to go and live elsewhere where we cannot live nicely. We don't even know whether our husbands have signed any agreements with the farm owners to say that if they die, we must leave the farm.
- This issue of black ownership of land. We welcome this, but we cannot see any difference between the white and the black farm owners – in fact, some of the black farm owners are violating our rights more than the white farm owners. The black farm owners don't want to see us upgrading our lives; they are jealous. **After the death of a spouse, black land owners sometimes say they do not want you on their land because of isinyama.**
- The reduction of livestock and fields that we can use also affects women on farms because we rely on these to educate our children and to consume and to sell.
- There is discrimination among women as well – women discriminate against other women and don't want to see them progress. If someone has an idea, women will not support it sometimes because of who she is, rather than because we are opposed to the idea.
- There is a law or a policy that does not deal with us as women on farms. It is not useful for us to write letters to government, because there are no responses. If we go to the police, nothing happens.
- Women sometimes feel it is better to move from the farms to the township, because of the bad conditions – but it turns out not to be better in terms of development, because it is difficult to start a new life.
- What is very sad is that we are the voters.

- What is not changing is privately owned land and the fact that farm owners can decide not to allow any developments on his land. The schools on farms are still closing down, and this means that our society is dying.
- No matter the situation on farms, we as women will stay on the farms and fight for our rights.

Additional issues raised by Group 2 in the group discussion:

- Land laws have been passed giving farm dwellers rights; while some land owners respect that, the majority do not.
- Government had encouraged farm dwellers to lodge land claims but they still do not own land and are being evicted.
- Lack of access to land has resulted in an increase in crime and the poverty rate because people are not working.
- Women on farms face challenges in finding good employment: women are underpaid on farms and they may be discriminated against when seeking employment. The Zibambele project of the Department of Transport has helped in creating employment but they are used as short-term laborers and it does not develop or empower them as women.
- Women have established burial societies with the money they get from employment on the Zibambele project.
- The new government has given women information on their rights and development issues; however, this information is only made easily available to people in the townships, not to rural women.
- Rural women don't know where to go for assistance on rape and domestic violence; when they report cases to the police stations no progress is made.

Group 3 (women and men)

What has changed:

- In some farms, people are being forced to pay rent; livestock and cropping fields have been reduced; or only farm owners' cattle are allowed. They are closing access roads. Imposition of high rents on housing and livestock and limitation on grazing rights results in poverty as people use these livelihoods for subsistence.
- Lack of jobs has resulted in poverty and high rates of crime.
- Some farm owners have decided not to employ people on the farm, but rather to employ other people from the townships.
- The relationship between the farm owners and the farm dwellers has deteriorated; it is no longer good.
- Because of our small information about evictions, we are now able to resist evictions that are happening.
- There is a problem of private security (farm watches) that are violating the rights of the farm dwellers, and are hired by farm owners.
- Now we do not have to wait for a long time for Home Affairs, for our identity books, and so on. There has been a change for the better.
- Women are the ones who are supporting homes, in female-headed households, with the government grants; women are becoming breadwinners through participation in public works programmes like road construction. This means that women rely less on men, and find time to be with other women and discuss their problems freely. It also puts women on more equal footing with men at home and in the community.
- Mobile clinics are better now, and we can get the tablets, but they do not come regularly (about every three months). Some clinics have been built on farms. Overall,

families spend less money traveling to towns for health care. The level of health awareness has improved. However, mobile clinics only go on government roads; they will not come onto farms or onto dirt roads. We have to walk long-distance to those points. People are still unable to access health care as and when the need arises.

- The introduction of higher grades classes in some farm schools has meant that families are no longer disintegrated as is the case when children have to lodge in towns and cities. However, a majority of farm dweller children still travel long distances to attend schools, particularly the higher grades. The cost of accommodation in town for these students places financial strain on families.
- The introduction of rental payments decreases the number of livestock we are allowed to keep, and the number of households living on farms; it increases the poverty on farms.
- The reduction of cropping fields also makes us more vulnerable to disease.
- Farm owners are creating game reserves and this causes poverty as people lose their jobs and are made to leave the farm. This increases unemployment on farms.
- The increase in the prices of land is also a problem. White farm owners increased the price of land, so government cannot afford to buy farm dwellers land.
- Farm owners are no longer tilling the land and this causes poverty. The cost of mielies was cheaper; now they are not producing and we have to buy more expensive food.

What has not changed:

- Evictions are still happening. This has not changed at all, even though it is different now – they are not being dumped on the road, but they are still being evicted. Evictions of farm dwellers causes displacement of families and creates new financial burdens as they struggle to re-establish themselves after evictions.
- The issue of land – we have not yet been given ownership of land.
- The issue of wages has also not changed. Farm workers' wages are still low. Even those farmers who say they are complying with the sectoral determination (minimum wage), they just calculated all the deductions and then you still end up getting nearly nothing.
- There are still farms with no electricity and no water – we just collect water from the river. The municipality tells us it is privately owned land and they cannot give us services like water and electricity. There are no proper toilets. Lack of access to basic water and sanitation infrastructure results in a lot of diseases.
- The access roads to our homesteads are not fixed; they only focus on the big roads. Lack of access roads has meant that mobile emergency units like ambulances are unable to reach farm dweller homesteads, leading to the loss of human life. It also hampers human interaction and communication.
- Farms are still being called with English names; there is not a single farm that is being called by a Zulu name.
- We do not have any right to build our houses on the farms where we stay.
- If we want to build our houses on blocks, we are told we can't.
- The amakhosi are still violating people's rights on farms; they also give land to those who are evicted (does this facilitate evictions?).
- Since we are not cropping anymore, we now have to buy food that comes from elsewhere, like from America. This causes the increase in the cost of food. The production of food for animal feed has created a food crisis and raised the prices for basic food.
- Government seems more aligned to the farm owners because they control the economy and they have money. Farm dwellers have no land and no money, so government is not giving us attention.

- White farmers tell us to go to parliament and they will keep the land.
- White farmers used to use the land, under apartheid, with all the support from government. That is why we are saying we need this too.

Input on agrarian reform

Ruth introduced herself and PLAAS's work in collaboration with AFRA and other NGOs to develop a set of more specific policy proposals to advance land and agrarian reform.

The current patterns of land use being produced in land reform projects are group-based ownership, management and use of land. Less common is individual (or household) ownership, management and use, but only available to the well resourced. There is a general tendency to maintain the current scale, mode of production. The state has been reluctant to sub-divide farms. Is the land that is being transferred appropriate? Does redistribution meet the people's needs which are not always about farming? What would constitute success? Attention has been focused on pace of land reform but new owners also face problems of Inputs, capital, market access, good prices, infrastructure and choices on tenure. This suggests that we should be thinking about agrarian reform.

She gave an introduction to the meaning of agrarian reform. She explained the six key elements of agrarian reform:

- the sizes of landholdings,
- types of land tenure,
- types of land use,
- labour regime,
- settlement patterns,
- infrastructure, input and marketing networks and other policies in favour of new land users.

Agrarian reform is not restricted to land reform it also involves changes in agrarian institutions including taxes, credit, rents and cooperatives. Agrarian reform goes well beyond the redistribution of land. It is about changing people's livelihoods by restructuring the kind of agriculture and rural economy – not just through the redistribution of land. The large-scale model of commercial farming which is dominant in South Africa only provides opportunities for the rich and the rest have to farm in groups which is risky.

Ruth emphasized the importance of establishing whether people need individual or group ownership of land. She provided examples of how agrarian reform has restructured farms and production and the rural economy in other countries – including Zimbabwe in the 1980s and agricultural cooperatives in Cuba.

Thematic clustering of issues

Zanele provided a review of the key themes emerging from the situation analysis, and identified the following themes:

- Employment
- Tenure
- Land access and ownership
- Land use

- Development
- Health
- Government programmes
- Housing
- Nutrition
- Gender inequality
- Security
- Relationships between farm dwellers, owners and government

Vision

Thabo emphasised that these should include some of the elements of agrarian reform. It is not enough to say 'we want land'. The participants should indicate their vision for what land and agrarian reform should achieve in this area, in terms of:

- Size of landholdings
- Land use and production
- Labour
- Land tenure / land rights
- Settlement
- Infrastructure, supply and marketing
- Value-adding to agricultural produce
- Non-farm economic activities

Tuesday 11 September 2007

Bheki welcomed the participants back to the workshop and Zanele reminded the participants of the main points raised about what agrarian reform is.

Recap of day one

- The highlight yesterday was the presentation that Ruth made and what is happening in other countries about agrarian reform, particularly the experience of Zimbabwe in the 1980s and the MST experience.
- The highlight was the formulation of the vision in terms of how we want to see our future in terms of land use and settlement patterns.
- Thabo provided a background of the workshop, and then our groups analysed the current situation in terms of where we are coming from and how our lives are changing and the problems that remain. Ruth made a presentation about what agrarian reform and explained the difference between land reform and agrarian reform and made examples of how this has been done in other countries. Then we formulated our vision for how we want to see our lives and land use.
- The women's group discussion did not say much about policy or legislation that is focusing or should focus on the needs of women and issues of women and land.
- There used to be no high schools on farms. Now, because there is transport, they can go to school up to matric by traveling to high schools in towns. This is an improvement.

Discussion on agrivillages

The participants agreed that they were opposed to agrivillages. According to participants, the problem with agrivillages is that people are clustered together and they don't have enough land for cropping and grazing – most of the land is taken up by commercial farmers. In most cases it is farmers who build the houses and they can still evict people – so there is still no security of tenure in those situations. The advocates of agrivillages say that this settlement pattern would make it possible to bring service delivery to people, but our experience is that it is not difficult for government to service farmers. Why is it difficult for government to do this when we are settled in the way we want to be?

The group asked Ruth to explain the difference between the Zimbabwean example of resettlement schemes in the 1980s and the agrivillage model. She explained that the key difference is that agrivillages are about settlement only – people who lived on farm are moved to these villages in the farming areas, usually without access to land for their own use, and then provide a source of labour for the surrounding farms. This is the opposite of the smallholder farming model, where instead of moving people off the farms, the farms are divided among them, enabling people to establish themselves with their own residential and cropping land, as well as access to common grazing. So while agrivillages remove access to land for own use and reinforce dependence on access to employment on others' land, the smallholder farming is about self-employment and production on one's own land.

Reportback on vision

Vision for agrarian reform	Group 1 (women and men)	Group 2 (women and men)	Group 3 (women only)
Size of landholdings	Medium sized farms of 100 to 150 hectares. This is what we will be able to work to produce for our families and also will allow us to think about the market. This will be family land and will be controlled by those families. Let people have an equal number of hectares and use these farms in their own ways.	The issue of distribution of land sizes must be according to the need of each family. What is important is how much livestock each family has – those with more livestock should get more land.	We have a dream of our land returning to us, but we are not talking about the current boundaries of farms.
Land rights	We would like to have land rights first. There are advantages and disadvantages of private ownership. There could be people who might not utilise land, but just bring more people for settlement. But if we get ownership, we would be able to use that land and produce for the livelihoods of our families and also their neighbours. (Comment in discussion session) The state should own land on behalf of the people. Families should be able to own land but not sell it. Once people are tired of using land they should hand it over to others.	Ownership should be at the level of families, because CPAs and Trusts have resulted in more conflicts, and we want to avoid this situation. We do not want to be controlled by others. It is difficult to get development without ownership of land. So it is better if the family has its own control. This would allow families to maintain control over family gravesites.	We would like land to be held separately by families. Land needs to return to families and they must have their own title deed, particularly on farms where there are many families. Ownership needs to come back to the families, so that all the rights of using the land should rest with those families, so that it can be inherited by future generations. (Comments in discussion session) However, grazing can be done communally. In situations where there are a small number of families an option of one title deed can be explored.
Land use	In terms of production, we want to produce food for our families and markets. We will also need assistance from agricultural extension officers in terms of technical skills. We want to go back to the old system of using the land, not the modern system which is	We need to feed our families first, and look after their livelihood, before thinking about markets.	We want to settle and produce on the land. When we produce, we want to produce together as a co-operative, even though the land will be held separately by families. We should improve on our old system where women used to assist each other in working the land and sharing the

	destroying the land. We want to create natural fertilizers ourselves to enrich the soil- not buy chemical fertilizers.		products. To do this, the government needs to improve policies and programmes to enable us to do this. We like the Cuba model of co-operatives. To upgrade the value of land, we would like to revert to the old ways of agriculture and not this new system of new seeds (GMOs).
Labour	This vision is based on self-employment as families. If a family is producing on a larger scale, then there would need to be a more commercial orientation and employment of other people. Those who move onto a larger scale of farming will need to employ labour, but the focus is on the labour and skills of household members, working on their own land..	In terms of labour, the families that have been using the land will continue to use the land, without considering employing others, at least for now. (Comment in discussion session) Maybe families can have their own title deeds but form co-ops on those farms because people know each other and have history living on those farms.	We have a variety of skills in our families, and there is no need to employ more people. We will work on our farms as families, and utilise the skills that we have. (Comments in discussion session) We will start small; should there be a demand for the product, then we can explore options of having more employees. Government must teach farm management skills to land reform beneficiaries and not use previous land owners as mentors.
Settlement	We do not opt for different settlement patterns. Up until such time as we get land ownership, we might decide that we want to move.	In terms of settlement, we want to remain where we are but we do not want people to create more homesteads and then reduce the land available for production – so there should be safeguards against bringing more people.	The current way of living is our life and we have been living like this for generations, so we did debate the option of settling more close to one another, but we felt it would not work in terms of crime and in terms of discrimination among families. So we prefer to live a bit away from each other.
Infrastructure and markets	We are not aware of markets and where are those markets. That is the information we would like to learn about, while we get ourselves established and start to produce for our families – then we can extend into production for markets. The priority is to produce for our families, and then government needs to	The government needs to advise us on markets and supply us with materials for production, and then we would aim to supply schools and hospitals. (Comment in discussion session) There are many challenges in getting sanitation, electricity, infrastructure, and other services, including politics, apathy in	There should be no problem, since it was done at the time of white farmers – they did have water and electricity even though they lived far apart, so we feel it is possible to achieve this. Development must happen where we are. We would like access to roads, electricity, toilets, etc. Government needs to open the

	open opportunities to produce for local markets like hospitals and schools, so that we can sell to those government institutions. Government must do away with the co-operative certificate as a prerequisite. We are not looking for big markets far away or overseas.	local government, and insistence on title deed.	markets for us.
Value-adding and non-farm economic activities	[no comment]	We want farms in order to support our families and also to produce at a high price.	The government needs to give us information and skills in terms of tourism and how to run a guest house or hotel. We would want to open some small firms, make candles and do other income-generating activities, on our farms. We have children that are in school who will develop skills to manage businesses. Even if we open a game reserve, it would be our decision – not someone else's decision. We would like to process fruits into a juice so as to get more value from the product.

Discussion about the vision

Zanele invited questions on the presentations, and for participants to comment on the similarities and differences among the visions that were presented.

- It seems that the whole group was saying that ownership needs to go back to families.
- There was also agreement that people already living on farms have skills, and do not need to, or want to, employ labour.
- The groups were not clear by saying that the land needs to be owned by families. Do they want to subdivide the land formally? Or just informally?
- What do people say about whether they want land to be held separately or in small groups? What if the family is affected by HIV/Aids and they are holding the title deeds on their own – who will support them, and what will happen to their title deed?
- There are so many disputes if the land is being held communally, so we feel it is better if the family has its own title deed and the land is formally subdivided, so we are certain about our boundaries, and so can avoid conflict.
- The other reason we prefer families to own their own farms is because we will not have an impact on that farm if we own it communally. Some people are lazy and will not till the land if they are part of a group. It will also avoid the kinds of disputes that we have seen among groups that hold land communally.
- Is it feasible for a small group of families – like four – to hold land together? Might this be preferable to holding land separately as families?
- Title deeds need to go to individual families, because some people want to get loans, and then some of us could be dispossessed if they don't repay that loan. It would affect the whole group.
- Let individual households and homesteads establish their own small farms. If you own land communally, some people will just wait for others to produce, and then will just gain afterwards, when they claim their share. This just causes conflict.
- Whatever we come up with, there will be some disadvantages, but I would support the idea that we let ownership go to families. But that does not mean that the old situation of humanity and solidarity will disappear, if we work the land as families.
- If we opt for the small family farm model, what cooperation is possible among families on family farms? Group 3 mentioned family farms but cooperative production – how would this work?
- Some cooperation in production is possible. There would need to be clear guidelines about how we would produce certain things together, and have the choice to stop producing together, and revert to household-based production.
- We want separate title deeds, but we could create our own constitution or rules governing some group production.

There was unanimous agreement within the group on the need for separate title deeds for households, but the option of working together across these farming units.

- Whatever model we are choosing will have its own advantages and disadvantages, but we need to evaluate which ones have the worst disadvantages. We know that Trusts that we have currently are the worst, because people want to be chairperson-for-life, and there are no meetings, and there is no accountability.
- Family ownership is best because the Trust chairperson is usually more powerful and they dominate. If we graze together, this person might have 250 cattle and will have more power than the person who only has 2 cows. Ownership to separate families will

help those who are worse off. It will protect them from those that dominate and use all the resources.

- How much land is needed– if the farms where people stay currently were subdivided, are there too many families?
- We need to acknowledge that situations on farms are not similar. If farms are to be given to families, there are smallholdings with a lot of families. So it is not enough to subdivide those farms and expect each household to be able to farm. We cannot always farm on the land where we are now.
- In terms of resources, there are some families that are nearer to water and other resources, and then some will have the advantage of access to those resources. This must be considered when subdividing the land, and some resources may have to be held together.

There was agreement that two situations complicate the vision of farms being subdivided into smaller family farms for those already residing on the farms: uneven distribution of natural resources and small farms with large numbers of families.

- We need to learn from the current situation where people have got land that they own communally.
- The size of the farm is less important than the question of secure ownership. We want small farms in the first instance. If we are able to use the land successfully and then indicate that we want to produce on a larger scale.
- Irrespective of the size of the farm, we need to divide the farm equally among the families, and then evaluate what will be our needs, and we will see if the farm is not sufficient for our needs. Then we can decide how to use the land. In those situations, it is ideal to form CPAs, if we are all working together.
- If the farm is small and it has a lot of families, it does not help for DLA to get that farm for the families – it would need to buy an adjacent farm so that people will have enough to produce to live on?
- Between the two extreme options of CPAs (where everything is owned and produced as a collective) and small family farms (where everything is owned and produced separately), what possibilities are there for cooperation – for example, in terms of equipment and implements, accessing inputs for production, and marketing the produce.
- We want to have individual ownership, but in producing and using the land, we would like to cooperate. But where the land is overcrowded, they should not establish CPAs or Trusts – instead, they should buy the neighbouring farms and enable people to extend onto these to establish small farmers. Let us improve the ubuntu ways of working together, but on the basis of separate land rights.
- How far can government go in terms of subsidizing our land use?
- Are we looking at people being allocated land in the current context where there are still white farm owners, or are we looking at a situation where there are no longer white farm owners?
- White farmers should leave and go back to the cities where they came from and let us get on with working the land.
- There should be the option of a community owning land collectively, because sometimes there is a farm where there are a lot of families, and the land is subdivided, people will own very small parcels of land and some will have water and others not. So in some cases it should be allowed, if the situation demands it.

Consolidation of the vision

Ruth provided a summary of the elements of the vision that were similar, and some that were different.

- The main agreement on the vision for a new **size distribution of landholdings**. People wanted to subdivide the farms to make possible small family farms on those same farms where they are currently residing. They want full private ownership of these portions. However, this subdivision may not always be practical, or would require careful negotiation and planning, for two reasons: either because land is already crowded and subdivision would leave families with too little land; or because natural resources or fixed infrastructure will require continued cooperation among smallholders (eg. access to water or to roads). In these cases, cooperation will be needed, and acquiring adjacent land may be necessary.
- With regards to **land use**, what transpired in all the groups is that people want to produce food for their families, for consumption, and will aim to increase production over time to sell the surplus in local markets. What was unclear was the kind of crops that people prefer, and whether these are the same crops that they would sell. A further area of agreement was that people want to hold land and work as families. However, the women's group emphasised the option of cooperative production, which could extend to engaging in joint land use, even though this would be on land that is owned by different families.
- People mentioned that they do not want to live in closer **settlements**, but to remain in scattered settlements on the farms, as they are now. In their vision, then, agrarian reform should not alter settlement patterns, but change ownership, land use, and the economy.
- Regarding **labour**, all the groups indicated that their vision is that people will be working for themselves, and thus there will be widespread self-employment rather than hired labour. This was both an ideological choice, but also a practical one, as the participants did not see the possibility of being able to afford to pay others for their labour.
- There was some interest in **value-adding** and economic activities beyond farming. The women's group mentioned that they would like to produce fruit juice within their cooperative, rather than just fruit. There was also some interest in finding ways to get income from tourism, but it was not clear what value-adding would be possible in the main type of production dominant in the area – livestock production. Participants clarified that dairy and leatherwork were discussed.
- What was striking was the degree to which the visions were agreed on family farming on subdivided portions of what are now commercial farms. This was the basic model for land ownership and use that participants preferred, which is very different from the opportunities currently being provided through the land reform programme.

Another speaker concurred to what had been said and mentioned that the women's group had opted for working together in terms of land use but still owning the land separately, as families.

Obstacles to our vision

Zanele asked participants to break into 'buzz groups' of three people each to discuss the obstacles to realising the vision that is emerging and therefore what the challenges are. The participants reported that they felt the key challenges and obstacles to realising the vision are:

- The current land reform programme is not working for us.

- Will the government support this idea? We are coming with an alternative programme.
- The lack of sufficient knowledge about where we can go for assistance in terms of our rights, skills and inputs to production.
- The problem of land ownership is the main obstacle.
- In terms of infrastructure and development, it is difficult to say what local government's role will be. The municipality does not have clear programmes to assist.
- The high price of land is an obstacle, because if you want the government to buy the land, and that is what prevents our ownership of land.
- Landowners themselves are an obstacle and will try to prevent this vision. Also, amaKhosi may try to stop this vision (because it would remove their control over land allocation and therefore over the families that would own their own land).
- The current land reform is not working and it will be a challenge for us to approach government with our vision.
- Even if we can make this vision into a programme, how do we go to government with it, and how do we work with government in realising this vision?
- If this vision does not form part of the government's framework, it will not work.
- HIV/Aids is a challenge, because we cannot own land if all the people are dying because of this disease.
- Getting access to financial support for production is a key challenge.
- White farm owners will challenge this vision.
- We are not sure how government can hear the people's voice and do what the people are saying.
- If we engage within the current processes and structures that government has, it will be a problem, because we have already tried to say these things in IDP forums – so we will need other strategies.
- It is nice sometimes to blame the government, but the biggest challenge is within ourselves. If we are lazy and we just sit here, or we get land and we don't use it, then that is our own challenge, as communities. People must stop being lazy.
- People living on farms need to be organised and mobilized in order to improve their own lives and engage effectively with government.
- If our children become more educated, as we want, will they come and work on the farm – or will they want to go elsewhere where they can use their education?
- We should raise our children by teaching them the importance of tilling the land, we should learn from what the MST is doing about this – teaching young people agricultural skills while also mobilizing them.
- Only focusing on the Department of Land Affairs is a problem; we should also focus on the Department of Agriculture and other government institutions – we should fully understand the different roles of these institutions.

Area-Based Planning and IDPs

Ndabe made a presentation about integrated development plans (IDPs) and area-based planning (ABP). This would help to indicate how the vision that has been developed can become part of government planning at the local level. The ABP process is a government programme. We need to understand what it means for us and for the process we plan to embark upon. The main purpose of area-based planning is to establish a land reform component in IDPs. Area based plans will have to be a tool for the cooperation of the government departments. The aims of area based planning are to speed up the process of land reform, boost the local economy and meet the goals of ASGISA, to integrate the land reform into IDP in the local municipality and in the province so that these are aligned;

development of redistributed land, and to encourage cooperation amongst government (inter governmental relations). Stages of area-based planning are:

1. Preparation (process planning)
2. Proper consultation (and thus sub committees)
3. A situation analysis (that identifies land needs, what people are wanting the land for).
4. A framework (with the strategies as to how to achieve the goal of socio-economic development).
5. Alignment of the area-based plan with other government departments and programmes.

Ndabe mentioned that area-based planning will become part of IDPs and will be reviewed together with the IDP, over a 5 year cycle. In terms of participation, national, provincial and local government are all required to cooperate, and there is meant to be opportunities for the public to identify their needs and to have these incorporated and reflected in the ABP for each district.

Discussion

- How will get to know when we can participate in the area-based planning? Those who participated in the IDP will know about when and how to participate in the programme
- Another speaker also mentioned that IDP are problems on their own so then how this programme will be integrated into this plan?

Policy Proposals and Strategies

Participants discussed in groups:

- What will be our strategies to ensure that our vision is realised?
- What does government need to commit itself to, in order to support our vision?

Reportback

Group 1 (women and men)

Policy proposals:

- Budgets: government should commit itself to increasing budgets to buy land and to cater for service provision on farms
- **Government should speed up land reform for farm dwellers.**
- Consultation: consultation processes with farm occupiers must take place about the land we want. DLA must consult us about the programmes that affect us directly, so that our views and opinions can inform these programmes.
- Integration: coordinated programmes are needed, to ensure that different sector departments, so that when land is delivered to people, all the other departments are part of it, and that service delivery is part of the package. The Department of Agriculture should be part of this, and provide support to ensure that land can be used productively. **Land Affairs and Agriculture should align their work. National government should work closer with municipalities in planning for farm dweller communities.**
- Legislation: new law is needed to ensure that evictions are stopped. The eviction of people from farms is crippling the economy in this area and is increasing poverty.
- The land reform programme should ensure that people's views and opinions are catered for.

- Government should also commit itself to providing programmes that would ensure that people are capacitated in terms of using land for agriculture – skills and inputs into production.

Strategies:

- We need to go back to our communities and report back on this process and the vision that we developed.
- We will encourage community members to start using the land they currently have access to, so government can see that we are serious about using land for production purposes.
- **We should communicate and sell these ideas to other communities.**
- We will then consult with government departments and sell our vision to them.
- We will take up campaigns (using marches and other mechanisms) so as to pressurise government to commit itself to implementing our vision.

Group 2 (women only)

We are confident about making proposals to government, because we are working here with AFRA and with researchers who will be able to support us to put these proposals to government.

Policy proposals

- Government must create a new policy about how land can be transferred to us – they must transfer land to households.
- Government must confirm women's rights to land – there is a vacuum on this issue.
- Government must commit itself to providing us with information from the beginning of the process through the transfer of land and also afterwards.
- Government should commit to ensuring that we do get necessary assistance in terms of skills, and also that all government departments are part of the process.
- If the area-based plan is to further the interest of the current land reform programme, then we are opposed to it. But if it is to further the aims of the vision we talked of today, then we will support it and we want to be part of it. **We should be included in consultation processes.**
- Government should conduct a valuation process to find the value of land and offer to buy it at this price and, if the owner does not want to sell for this price, after 30 days, government should move to expropriate this land.
- **Government needs to enact laws that would protect farm dwellers from unscrupulous land owners and from amakhosi.**

Strategies

- We need to report back to our communities about this workshop and also build further on the vision in our communities.
- We must strengthen the struggle from the grassroots level. We will work with people at farm level and inform them of what is happening, so that they can be able to articulate issues on their own.
- We will establish a social movement of rural women that will ensure that it takes up all the issues that women are facing. **We should strengthen our networks with other women's organizations at the national and provincial levels.**

- We must conscientise the youth around land issues **and teach them to be more active in agricultural production**, because there are too few young people involved; if the older generation passes away, all this work of fighting for land will be lost.
- HIV/AIDS is a real impediment to our vision being realised. We will have to engage in campaigns that deal with HIV/AIDS (contraceptives as well as use of antiretrovirals) in order to limit the further spread of HIV/AIDS in our communities.
- **As women, we need to go out and find information on land and agrarian reform.**

Group 3

Policy proposals

- Government must speed up the process of land reform, in order to realise the vision we have developed.
- Government must develop infrastructure in the rural areas so that we can access resources, for example, schools close-by to our communities.
- Government must consult with us about all the programmes that it plans to implement in our areas **including the IDP**.
- Many government officials do not do their work. Government must follow-up to see whether officials are doing their work or not.
- Government should commit itself to quickly finding a solution to the HIV/AIDS problem – a vaccine.
- Government should commit itself to ensuring that farm dwellers do get all their basic needs met.

Strategies

- We must ensure that government does amend the current land reform policy to reflect what we as farm dwellers are wanting and needing, in terms of land.

Zanele provided a summary of the key points that had emerged from the three groups and indicated some areas of disagreement.

- Scrap or amend existing land reform policy? There is a view that the current land reform programme should be scrapped and another one developed. There is also a view that it does not need to be scrapped, but just amended so that it can also reflect the kind of vision that was expressed here.
- Participate in area-based planning or not? The two groups that were mixed (men and women) said that they want to be part of the area-based plan, by putting their own views and opinions and on the table. But the women-only group said that if this process is about the existing land reform programme, then they do not want to participate in it.
- How will land be identified and acquired? Area-based planning is based on knowing which land should be acquired for redistribution. How will this be identified? How will it be acquired for redistribution?

Discussion

Change in policy

- It should be amended because government developed this policy without our input. Now it must listen to us, and change the policy in ways that will allow our vision to be realised.
- Our experience is that government wants to buy land and give it to the chiefs and let chiefs be the custodian of land on behalf of the people. We do not want this because

the amakhosi are corrupt. We want government to buy or take land and give it to us as families.

- The current land reform process is too slow and there are sections of it that are not working for the benefit of the farm dweller communities. If it is amended, will there still be these problematic aspects? That is why we say it should be scrapped.
- There is no consultation with farm communities. All government is doing is telling us what will happen. We do not have a platform to have government hear our views and having our views accommodated.
- We should continue to engage on this question and consult more with others in our communities, to clarify what message we will send to government.

Traditional authorities

- There are different situations in tribal areas and in farming areas – and separate laws apply to these. The Communal Land Rights Act applies in tribal areas. What do we think about the role of traditional authorities in control of land in the farming areas, and where farm occupiers gain access to their own land?
- There is state land where amakhosi can be given land. Let farms be for farm dwellers, not for amakhosi.
- The approach of the amakhosi is that when they come, they always want to be the ones making and enforcing rules – for this reason, we do not want amakhosi to feature anywhere in the farming areas. Let farms be bought for farm dwellers and be transferred directly to farm dwellers.
- There is a difference between farms and tribal areas. Amakhosi should be catered for only in tribal areas, and let farms be bought for farm dwellers.
- There is agreement on this point. We want legislation to be clear on this.

Identification and acquisition of land

- Government should identify which land is to be redistributed. In this area, it is obvious: we have all put in our labour tenant applications. Government knows which land must be redistributed to us.
- It is we as farm dwellers who should identify the land need and also identify which land should be acquired for us, and then inform government.
- Yes, it should be us.
- If area-based planning might further our interests and suggestions, then we will participate at the level of the IDP forums, and together with the municipality talk about the land need and identify which land should be bought on our behalf and transferred to us.
- Should market prices be offered by government? If this is refused, should there be expropriation?

Consolidation of strategy

- There have been many campaigns and marches in the past. Have these brought about changes? What changes do we expect if we take up similar campaigns again?
- The first step is for us to go back to the people and conscientise them and encourage them to use their land.
- We do not want to beg government to support us; we will use certain means to ensure that government pays attention to our needs.
- AgriSA has meetings with the President. What do they do that gives them this power? What do we need to do to get government's attention?

- It is because they are capitalists and they contribute to the economy of the country – that is why the President is willing to meet with them.
- White farmers are a formation and that is what makes their voice strong. If we can organise people and become a formation, we will also be able to have a strong voice and have an impact on government. We will then participate in IDP forums and ward committees, to establish why government is listening to AgriSA but not to us.
- We always think of campaigns like marches, pickets, sit-ins, and delivering memorandums, but at no stage have we thought of developing a document containing our views and forwarding it to the President's office, and engaging the President around this. For example, the Mzansi account was created because government was successfully lobbied. So we must lobby.

Zanele indicated that AFRA will develop a proposal around these discussions, and take up this idea of a document that will be used as a lobbying document. But if this does not produce results, what will farm dwellers do? Bheki also asked what was meant by the decision to organise farm dwellers: organise at what level, and around what issues, and how?

- Each time we have workshops, we go back to our communities but we do not follow up on the resolutions and decisions – so what will happen now? It is our leaders who fail to call these meetings. I will be very glad if after the workshop we can come up with a process of continuously engaging as communities, to really take these issues forward.
- There should be cooperation among members of different committees and districts, so that people are not divided among the farms, and so that we can have an impact.
- How can farm dwellers become an organised formation that can have the kind of impact that AgriSA has, and meet with people like the President?
- Leaders at committee level in the farms should be coordinating among themselves and capacitate people and disseminate information among the farm dwellers.
- We need to strengthen the structures from the ground up, from individual farms and municipal areas, to the district, provincial and national levels. Then it will be possible to influence the national government and the President.
- It is not easy to organise, because the farm owners cannot know that we are attending these workshops. If I tell everyone I was here, someone may tell the farm owner, and then I will face consequences. So that is why it is not easy to organise on the farms.
- What seems to be crippling progress is that whenever we have gatherings, there are no follow-ups by leadership; they do not report back and so there is no further engagement.
- It is essential to report back to people on farms and then to indicate what we want our farm dweller 'district committees' in Amajuba (ie. Dannhauser, Utrecht and Newcastle) to do next.
- We need one, single organisation of farm dwellers that will represent our needs, and go to Parliament. Just like taxi owners have their associations, we need this too, but a single association.
- We should have cross-fertilisation programmes, so that people from Utrecht go and spend time organising in Dannhauser, and so on, so that we can learn from each other and also report back on how we are taking forward our strategies.
- Let this be the beginning, and district committees should meet regularly to see what is being done in terms of taking forward our vision and proposals – and then report back to people. Any strategies we plan must be implemented and evaluated.

- I do not understand all the issues; our district committees do not always report back to us, and then they bring us to workshops, but we find it hard to catch up.
- Let LPM organise at local level and strengthen the branches. LPM should take the lead and do the reportbacks.
- Each individual should take responsibility to disseminate information from this workshop to those in our households, on our farms, and in our wider communities.

Zanele explained that the reason we have been pushing participants to become more specific is that there is a need for farm dwellers to have their own vision which they can present to the Amajuba district municipality, and influence the area-based plan which will become part of the IDP. Farm dweller representatives must be in a position to give contributions to this plan, to ensure that it reflects the vision we developed. It is therefore essential for people to do reportbacks.

The participants sang a song to re-energise themselves, as it was very hot.

Way forward

Ruth provided an overview of the strategies that had been proposed:

1. **reportback meetings** in communities and refining of the vision and proposals;
2. **a lobbying document** outlining the vision and proposals for farm dwellers in Amajuba district;
3. **lobbying government** with this document in different forums (Amajuba district area-based planning; LED forum; local municipality IDP forums, provincial government, national government);
4. **campaigns**: there was very little detail on what, how or when.

Participants proposed that:

- Each district committee for the three regions of Amajuba will host reportback meetings in their areas. A reportback from this workshop will also take place on 24 September, when there is a mass event to reinstate a woman who was illegally evicted. Farm dwellers from throughout the district will be present.
- The lobbying document must be developed soon afterwards and will be developed by the district committees, who can request assistance from AFRA. We could include the detail of our alternative vision and show this on maps of our local municipalities. This needs to be completed before the end of 2007, in order to influence the area-based plan, since consultants will soon be appointed to develop this plan. We will need to check when they have been appointed and who they are.

What is expected of AFRA, in terms of support?

- AFRA cannot do anything unless the communities come back and indicate what support they require.
- We require AFRA to support and advise us, as we go ahead with these processes.
- AFRA must not abandon us; it seems like AFRA is withdrawing (AFRA responded that this is not the case, but it must be clear what process is being pursued and what role AFRA is being asked to play in support).
- AFRA needs to empower us to participate effectively in the municipal processes.

We also want to know from PLAAS whether there are other organisations that have similar objectives as ours, and if so, whether we can forge links with them, to move forward

together. PLAAS and AFRA undertook to look at the potential for networks with other farm dweller formations elsewhere.

The participants nominated their representatives to attend the Amajuba District Agricultural LED forum the following day (Wed 12 September), and ensured one representative from each local municipality, and representation of women. They nominated Mrs Mthembu and Ncame (women's group), Jabulani (Newcastle), Mdubane Gama (Utrecht) and Siphon Khumalo (Dannhauser).

Closure

Bheki thanked the participants for their hard work over the two days and the meeting closed with a prayer.

List of participants

Name	Telephone	Area
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Sindi Mabele	073 738 4622	Dannhauser
Thabile Mavuso	073 274 4720	Themba Lihle
Lucky Ndlovu	073 414 3412	Dannhauser
T. I Simelane	017 730 0488	Utrecht
M. A Sedeone	083 728 8569	Uthethe
Sibusiso R. V. Msibi	084 826 6378	Dannhauser
Sipho Khumalo	093 135 8389	Dannhauser
Ntomkhona Nkosi		Newcastle
Mdubane Gama	072 279 8064	Utrecht UCC
Herbert Madi	083 531 5995	Utrecht UCC
Tholakele Thwala	073 260 2219	Dannhauser
Nomusa Kubheka	076 924 6114	Dannhauser
Ntombikayise Mthembu	072 424 7507	DRC
Ntombitheni Zwane	072 737 2387	Newcastle
Nokulunga Madi	073 378 8385	Utrecht
Nomgqibelo Khumalo	072 836 2830	Utrecht
Protus Williams	072 148 2955	Utrecht UCC
Nomzamo G. Vilakazi	083 238 3454	Newcastle
Thabile Ntuli	076 272 2615	Normandien (Newcastle)
Jabulani Hadebe	072 124 1004	Botha's Pass
Ntombizodwa Dlamini	072 654 4798	Utrecht
Ntombifuthi Mkonza	072 530 4156	Utrecht / Howick
Smangele Mtshali	076 111 7291	Utrecht
Ntombi Williams	076 426 0500	Utrecht / Howick
Jabhi Mlangeni	082 091 0517	Newcastle
Bafana Nkosi	072 400 2443	Newcastle
M. M Mkhumane	072 469 9049	Newcastle
Mangaliso Kubheka	072 127 4058 / 073 445 8017	Newcastle
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Ruth Hall, PLAAS & Isaac Sibeko, AFRA
11 September 2007