



COMPREHENSIVE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (CRDP)

Introduction:

Rural development in general is regarded as the actions and initiatives taken to improve the standard of living of communities in non-urban areas. These areas are usually characterised by a low ratio of inhabitants in wide open spaces where agricultural activities are prominent, while economic activities relate mainly to the production of food and raw materials.

Rural development actions are therefore mainly aimed at enabling rural people to take control of their destiny, thereby dealing effectively with rural poverty through the optimal use and management of natural resources. This can be achieved through co-ordinated and integrated broad-based agrarian transformation as well as strategic investment in the relevant economic and social infrastructure to the benefit of all rural communities and not only those involved in agriculture. The success of rural development will culminate in sustainable and vibrant rural communities.

Integrated rural development is a concept for planning and thus a strategy for multi-sectoral and multi-faceted interventions designed to ensure sustained improvements in the lives of rural dwellers and rural economies. Rural development programmes are more effective and with sustainable impact if implemented in combination with community-based traditional knowledge. Public participation is therefore essential for successful and acceptable rural development.

The strategic objectives and targets of government for the period 2009-2014 have changed and particular emphasis is placed on rural development. Economic growth has to be promoted and the creation of work is essential to boost further growth. Government has therefore decided to focus on 10 strategic priorities of which rural development linked to land reform is strategic priority 3. The overall purpose of rural development is to improve the quality of life of rural households, enhancing food security through a broader

base of agricultural production and exploiting the varied economic potential of each area. Land reform policies will have to be implemented aggressively taking into account the most appropriate use of the relevant land. Rural towns have to be revitalised to ensure they can successfully serve as service centres of the rural economies. Non-farming activities such as tourism will be explored and supported while more prominence will be given to skills development.

To prepare the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform for the task ahead, a number of critical activities and processes have to be addressed, including:-

- Review of the Department's vision and rebranding;
- restructuring of the Department;
- profiling the current staff establishment;
- review of the performance management development system;
- consultation with labour unions acknowledged by the Department; and
- review the budget allocations to the various programmes.

Mandate:

The mandate of the Ministry and Department of Rural Development and Land Reform includes the following:

- Intensify the land reform programme to ensure that more land is made available to the rural poor, while providing them with technical skills and financial resources to productively use the land to create sustainable livelihoods and decent work in rural areas.
- Review the appropriateness of the existing land redistribution programme, introduce measures aimed at speeding up the pace of land reform and promote land ownership by South Africans.
- Expand the agrarian reform programme, which will focus on the systematic promotion of agricultural co-

operatives throughout the value chain, including agro-processing in the agricultural areas. Support measures will be developed to ensure improved access to markets and finance by small farmers, including fencing and irrigation systems.

- Establish a much stronger link between land and agrarian reform programmes, as well as water resource allocation to ensure that the best quality of water resources are available to all our people, especially the poor.
- Ensure that all schools and health facilities have access to basic infrastructure such as water and electricity by 2014.
- Introduce the provision of proper sanitation systems in rural areas.
- Strengthen the partnership between government and the institution of traditional leadership to focus on rural development and the fight against poverty.
- Work together with farming communities to improve the living conditions of farm dwellers, including the provision of subsidised houses and other basic services.
- Provide support for organised labour to organise and unite farm workers, and increase the capacity of the Department of Labour to enforce labour legislation.
- Use the Expanded Public Works Programme during the implementation phase by making use of local labour thus furthering community involvement.

Strategy:

To enable the Department to achieve all its objectives, a strategy based on the following three pillars has to be adopted:

- Agrarian transformation;
- rural development; and
- land reform.

Agrarian transformation includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Increased production and the optimal and sustainable use of natural resources including land, grass, trees, water; natural gases, mineral resources etc;
- livestock farming (cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, chickens, turkey, game, bees, fish, etc), including the related value chain processes;
- cropping (grain, vegetables, fruit, spices, medicines, etc), including the related value chain processes;
- the establishment and strengthening of rural livelihoods for vibrant local economic development;
- the use of appropriate technology, modern approaches and indigenous knowledge systems; and
- food security, dignity and an improved quality of life for each rural household.

Rural development includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Improved economic infrastructure:
 - Roads, railways, ports;
 - shearing sheds;
 - dipping tanks;
 - milk parlours;
 - community gardens;
 - production/marketing stalls;
 - fencing for agricultural purposes;
 - storage warehouses;
 - distribution and transport networks;
 - electricity networks;
 - communication networks (land lines, cell phones, radio, television, etc);
 - irrigation schemes for small scale farmers;
 - water harvesting, water basin and water shed management systems (dams etc);
 - post office services and internet cafes;
 - rural shopping malls.

- Improved social infrastructure:

- Social mobilisation to enable rural communities to take initiatives;
- establish savings clubs and cooperatives for economic activities, wealth creation and the productive use of assets;
- communal sanitation and ablution systems to improve health conditions;
- access to resourced clinics;
- sport and recreation facilities especially for women and youth development;
- rural libraries to promote a reading culture;
- rehabilitation and development of schools as centres of excellence;
- community halls and museums;
- non-farming activities to strengthen rural livelihoods;
- ABET centres for capacity building and appropriate skills development;
- leadership training, social facilitation and conscientious awareness for CRDP and socio-economic independence;
- democratise rural development, participation and ownership of all processes, projects and programmes;
- co-ordination, alignment and cooperative governance (local municipalities, traditional councils, provincial government);
- participation of NGOs, including faith-based organisations, community-based organisations and other organs of civil society;
- social cohesion and access to human and social capital.

Land reform includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Increasing the pace of land redistribution:-

- Provide increased access to land for previously disadvantaged people, through the redistribution of 30% of white-owned agricultural land;
- review the land reform products and approaches (LRAD, SPLAG, LASS, PLAS, ABP, LARP, etc) for greater effectiveness and relevance to the CRDP,

including the implementation of related policies (use-it-or-lose-it, leasing, post settlement support, etc);

- review land acquisition processes (value for money for each hectare of land bought, proposal for a special land commission for an audit of privately owned agricultural land, the productive use of land transferred to the landless, the effective development and beneficiation of the land reform beneficiaries).

- Increasing the pace of land tenure reform:-

- Fast-track the settlement of labour tenant claims, especially in KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga;
- facilitate secure access to land by farm dwellers;
- protect the land rights of farm workers and create decent jobs on farms;
- deal effectively and promptly with illegal evictions;
- establish agri-villages for local economic development on farms;
- provide basic needs for farm dwellers, including water, sanitation, electricity, housing, etc;
- implement CLaRA to stimulate economic growth in traditional communities in the former homeland areas, while promoting efficient use of land and the sustainable use of natural resources;
- deal effectively with State land administration;
- provide support and capacity building to farm dwellers.

- Speeding up the settlement of outstanding land restitution claims:-

- Provide an analysis of outstanding claims (nature and type), indicate related challenges and how these should be addressed to speed up the finalisation of claims and indicate clearly what is possible by the year 2011 (including what will still be outstanding, if any);
- adopt a developmental approach to the settlement of restitution claims to demonstrate a contribution to the CRDP;
- develop a strategy to deal with land claims in the Land Claims Court, to ensure that these are "winnable strong cases" setting good precedent and appealing cases that may set a bad precedent;

- ensure sustainability, beneficiation and contribution to poverty eradication, economic growth and the creation of employment opportunities, as well as the vibrancy of land restitution projects, going forward.
- Effective support to all land reform programmes through land planning and information:-
 - Provide a reliable and efficient property/deeds registration system; improving it by modernising and digitising the cadastres (e-Cadastre);
 - contribute to economic growth and housing development by providing government and private agents with essential land information to engage in planning as well as economic transactions;
 - provide a basis for the design of a land value tax, land valuation and sustainable land management;
 - provide surveys and mapping services to various clients for different needs;
 - provide spatial planning information and services to local municipalities and other public or private institutions that may need these services for developmental purposes.
- human resource planning;
- financial resource planning;
- development of national and regional rural development plans.
- Monitoring and evaluation:
 - Site visits to ensure that projects are progressing according to plan;
 - development of M&E tools and systems to monitor and access impact and effectiveness;
 - participatory appraisal and review mechanisms applicable across the board;
 - continuous assessment.
- Reporting systems and accountability:
 - Periodical progress reports (quantitative and qualitative narrative reports);
 - continuous feedback to community and relevant stakeholders;
 - timely problem solving and appropriate interventions, conflict resolution and skills for dealing with group dynamics;
 - effective financial management systems which will make regular financial reporting simple and possible;
 - effective and efficient use of financial resources to ensure the prevention and/or elimination of corruption and fraud.

Rural Development Agency

The Department shall take the lead in the coordination and facilitation of an integrated implementation of the CRDP. In the medium to long term the best vehicle for this coordination shall be an over-arching Rural Development Agency (RDA).

The RDA shall among others be responsible for the following:

- Coordination:

Ensuring participation in and support of the CRDP by all government departments, municipalities, State owned enterprises, NGOs, donors, financial institutions, etc (this includes the coordination of development planning and social facilitation).
- Planning and resource mobilisation:
 - Land use planning;
 - physical planning;
 - material resource planning;
- An analysis of the situation in terms of strengths and weaknesses, the strategy chosen to meet them and the predictive evaluation criteria according to the national guidelines;
- a justification of the priorities chosen having regard to the national guidelines, as well as the expected impact;
- information on the specified region and measures proposed for each region and their description, including the specific verifiable objectives and indicators that allow the programme's progress, efficiency and effectiveness to be measured;

Regional rural development plans

While a national rural development plan will provide national norms and standards in respect of rural development, it is envisaged that rural development plans which will cover a 5-year period of development, will inter alia address the following:

- a resourcing and financing plan;
- information on and an indicative breakdown of the initial amounts by measure in terms of public and private expenditure; and
- information on how the regional rural development plan complements other public and private measures.

The ultimate objective of rural development plans will be to guide the improvement of the quality of life of rural people. These plans will be aligned to existing planning frameworks and existing environmental tools.

Short, medium and long term goals

In the short term the Department shall speed up the implementation of the existing land reform programmes with the focus on complementing the CRDP. Pilot projects shall enable the Department to refine the concept, as well as to develop a coherent strategy and policy towards the CRDP. Performance assessment of the various land reform projects shall be linked to the CRDP objectives and the extent to which they contribute to the achievement of the agreed mandate.

In the medium term a Green Paper on Agrarian Transformation, Rural Development and Land Reform (including a draft bill) will be developed. This Green Paper will be refined into a White Paper on Agrarian Transformation, Rural Development and Land Reform which will be the ultimate guide for the achievement of the noble objectives. The Green Paper, White Paper and related legislation will be developed in consultation with all key stakeholders including the rural people themselves.

In the longer term the White Paper and related legislation will be implemented and the implementation thereof closely monitored to ensure the continuous success of rural development in South Africa.

Piloting rural development

The Ministry and Department of Rural Development and Land Reform will pilot the CRDP in Giyani in the Limpopo province. The socio-economic profile of various villages in Giyani served as the guide in the selection of the most appropriate site for piloting the rural development intervention approach. The outcome will be measured by the success of poverty eradication in the area.

A further two pilot sites will be identified in other provinces. Lessons learned from the Giyani-pilot will serve as crucial guidelines for the approach to be adopted in respect of the pilot sites in other provinces. The frame of reference for the Department's facilitation in the entire development cycle is informed by the following participatory processes:

- Stage 1:
 - Pre-planning consultations
 - Interactive site selection
- Stage 2:
 - Interactive community appraisals
 - Interactive community-based projects identification
- Stage 3:
 - Interactive projects preparation and design
 - Projects appraisal
- Stage 4:
 - Participatory projects implementation
 - Participatory projects monitoring
- Stage 5:
 - Participatory projects evaluation

This is, purposefully, an interactive approach to development. Action plans, therefore, will be developed in consultation with critical partners such as the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; the Department of Water and Environmental Affairs; the local municipalities; traditional institutions and especially, the local communities. The projects will be informed by various focal areas and will include a fencing programme for crop or livestock depending on the needs of the specific focal area.

From a socio-cultural perspective, every project has people in the centre and therefore the socio-cultural context of each project would be critical. From project preparation and design to implementation, the socio-economic patterns and conditions of every setting will shape projects. The view is that people are not the targets but in fact the subjects of their own development.