Cape Peninsula
University of Technology

THE ROLE OF SMALL-SCALE AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS ON YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AT A SELECTED DISTRICT IN THE EASTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA

by

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DECLARATION

I **Anelisiwe Magadla**, declare that the contents of this thesis represent my own unaided work, and that the thesis has not previously been submitted for academic examination towards any qualification. Furthermore, it represents my own opinions and not necessarily those of the Cape Peninsula University of Technology.

Signed: A Magadla Date: 08 May 2023

ABSTRACT

Agriculture remains an important economic sector in South Africa's economy. It includes all economic activities from the provision of farming inputs, farming and adding value. It also includes crop and animal production. In the Eastern Cape like anywhere else in the country, most arable land reserved for farming and agriculture is rooted within the rural areas and agriculture is exercised at a small scale. While various government development programmes have been put in place to encourage farming and entrepreneurship, most rural farmers are still experiencing challenges that stagnates entrepreneurial activities.

The purpose of this research was to explore the role of small-scale agriculture in promoting youth entrepreneurship in South Africa's rural areas; the main goal of this study was to explore levels of entrepreneurial activities in the province and formulate strategies to generate a favourable climate where agri-business and entrepreneurship activities will thrive. The research took place in the Eastern Cape within the Mhlontlo municipality. A random sampling technique was used to select the research participants. An aggregate of 80 participants participated in the study including 60 students, 10 lecturers and Teaching Assistants, as well as 10 agriculture officials and farmers in the area.

A mixed research method was adopted in the study because it advances the logical assimilation of quantitative and qualitative data within a single exploration or sustained program of inquiry. Participation was optional, and interviewees were free to pull out from the study without any consequence. Data was gathered through interviews, focus groups and questionnaires. Data from the study was systematically analysed through computer aided data analysis software such as Atlasti for qualitative data and SPSS for statistical analysis of quantitative data. Findings reveal that some of the youth participants in this study have a negative perception towards agriculture's ability to eradicate youth unemployment in the rural areas and the country at large.

The majority of the participants indicated that entrepreneurial activities cannot thrive in the area because of the bad business environment. The negative entrepreneurship climate in the province does not allow small-scale farmers to expand their agri-businesses. Impediments to entrepreneurship in the province has been indicated as follows: inadequate entrepreneurial services, lack of education and training, limited competency in business management and managerial expertise, limited access to information and limited access to funding and finance.

Keywords: *SMMEs, Entrepreneurship, Small-scale farming, Agriculture*

DEDICATION

This body of work is dedicated to my children: Iminathi, Dimpho, and Lethabo so as to inspire them to achieve more than I have academically achieved; my late sister Ongeziwe Magadla in recognition of her love for education and lastly my mother Ndileka Titi in recognition of her support and her love for books.

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- To all farmer entrepreneurs within the Mhlontlo municipality who took part in this study, I wish you prosperity in your entrepreneurship activities.

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AU	African Union
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CASP	Comprehensive Support Programme
CPUT	Cape Peninsula University of Technology
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
FET	Further Education and Training
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEM	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor
ILO	International labour organisation
LRAD	Land Reform for Agriculture Development Programme
LSMS	Living Standard Measurement Studies
MAFISA	Micro Finance in South Africa
MERECAS	Mechanisation Revolving Credit Access Scheme
N	Study sample number
NEPAD	The New Partnership of Africa's Development
NERPO	National Emergent Red Meat Producers Organisation
SADC	The South African Development Community
SMME	Small, Micro and Medium Enterprise
SONA	State of the Nation address
TARDI	Tsolo Agricultural Rural Development Institute
TOEF	Technological-Organisational-Environmental Finance
USA	United States of America
WSU	Walter Sisulu University

GLOSSARY OF BASIC TERMS AND CONCEPTS

Agriculture	The science, art, or practice of cultivating the soil, producing crops, and raising livestock and in varying degrees the preparation and marketing of the resulting products (Webster, 2022).
Barriers	Rule, law, or policy that makes it difficult or impossible for something to happen or be achieved (Collins,2022).
Bureaucratic	Involving complicated rules and procedures which can cause long delays (Collins, 2022).
Entrepreneurial culture	Is an environment where an individual is motivated to innovate, create and take risks (Uhlaner,2010).
Entrepreneurship	Is the ability to develop, organise and manage a business venture along with any of its risks in order to make a profit (Bula,2012).
Smallholder Farmers	Are defined as those farmers with a low asset base, low farming technology, limited resources, low access to services and have a land size ranging from one-ten acres of land depending on the agro ecological zone (McElwee,2008).
Unemployment rate	This refers to the share of the labour force that is without work but available for and seeking employment (Ekkehard et al.,2014)

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

1.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses the cornerstone of this research by highlighting the synopsis, study objectives, problem statement, research questions and significance of the study. It gives the exposition of the role of agriculture on youth employment, entrepreneurial activities, and the importance of agriculture entrepreneurship towards alleviating poverty and unemployment. The chapter then conludes with a brief outline of the thesis and how all the chapters will inform each other as a whole.

1.2 Overview

According to Braunerhjelm, Andersson & Eklund (2022) in the field of business entrepreneurship, it has been common to link entrepreneurship with pioneering and dynamic developments within the Small, Micro and Medium Enterprise (SMME) sector. To this day, SMMEs the world over are known to play a big part in economic growth. In some parts of the developing world, the creation of entrepreneurial activities has been seen as key to sustainable economic growth and development. In South Africa, SMMEs contribute significantly towards employment creation and income generation in both urban and rural areas. While entrepreneurship is regarded as vital for economic development, in Gauteng and the Western Cape, there has been some challenges in the Eastern Cape at the local level (Mulibana & Rena, 2021).

Ngwane & Cebekhulu (2020) revealed that the provincial government highly regards SMMEs as the backbone to alleviate poverty and empower the previously disadvantaged groups of society. Agriculture, which includes all economic activities from the provision of farming and value adding, remains an important sector of South Africa's economy. The sector remains one of the economic activities driving the economies of the country. Ihemezie & Dallimer (2021) argues that in the developing and developed countries, agricultural land is embedded within the rural areas and agriculture is practiced at a small scale and most agricultural activities are still encountering challenges that stagnates entrepreneurial activities.

While agriculture is seen as a key economic activity capable of transforming small-scale subsistence rural farms into large-scale commercial farms, there have been numerous challenges affecting the commercialisation of these farms in most countries in the developing

world (NGO Pulse, 2012). Several studies conducted such as Nadel (2020) & Falvey (2020) have shown that arable land for farming is still unattainable in non-urban areas, while others do not have the required financial muscle to commercialise their farms. There are some challenges that are still affecting most farmers as they migrate from limited survival agri-business to comprehensive profitable agri-business (Davis & Bezemer, 2003). Although research has been done and conducted in this area, what remains unclear though, and difficult to understand, is a detailed picture of the exact challenges that face these farmers in their farming activities. Such an obscurity on the challenges faced by the farmers has forced some local government authorities to either ignore or implement policies that fail to address the exact challenges currently at hand (Mortimore, 1989; Farmer, 2001).

In recent times, the South African government-initiated policies aimed at increasing the budget spent on small-scale agricultural farming activities, to support the emerging farmers, but to no avail. To date there is still little to no evidence to show whether these attempts by the government have been successful (Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries, 2010; Khapayi & Celliers, 2016; Aliber & Hall, 2012). In an attempt to provide a solution to the ailing farmers, the government and other youth development agencies have worsened the burden on farmers by devising policies that are stringent and difficult to follow or implement. Small-scale farmers currently living below the poverty datum line have been faced with serious challenges of migration from limited agri-business to comprehensive profitable agri-business division. Their plight is lack of financial resources and technical knowledge required in commercial farming, due to poor levels of education (Khapayi & Celliers, 2016; Aliber & Hall, 2012).

1.2.1 Current Status

In recent years, the SMMEs sector in both developed and developing countries has received attention. According to Gherghina, Botezatu, Hosszu & Simionescu (2020) the SMMEs sector is globally considered as the engine of economic development and credited with many positive changes in the developing world. While SMMEs continue to play a vital role, entrepreneurship is also credited with the potential to address socio-economic challenges. However, Ighoshemu & Ogidiagba (2022) stated that unemployment levels and bad governance continue to rise thereby deteriorating the general standards of living in the country. Entrepreneurship through agriculture plays a critical role in creating job opportunities and economic growth. Yet only a small percentage of individuals who wish to become agriculture entrepreneurs start up their

own businesses. To add to these challenges, some entrepreneurs have failed to start their own businesses owing to the unequal distribution of wealth in the country and lack of access to financial resources needed to get started.

In addition, according to Musara (2020) the increase in unemployment in South Africa is not producing enough entrepreneurs who can contribute to job creation as a result entrepreneurial activities within the agriculture sector are done mainly for survival as opposed to a return on investment at community level, thus contributing to the provincial economy. The challenge for entrepreneurship and agriculture in Eastern Cape like in any other province is to identify key factors for building an environment in which entrepreneurial initiative and agriculture can thrive within rural areas and this can be achieved through improving entrepreneurship activities which requires change in economic dynamics of farming and agricuture Cishe, Mpongwana & Kativhu (2022). Since the farming business environment is changing rapidly, current programmes in the rural areas should put in place efforts to develop entrepreneurial frameworks to create and promote economic development in rural areas. The role of entrepreneurship and innovation should be given more emphasis in agricultural economics to inform farm entrepreneurship research (Doe, 2015).

1.2.2 Global trends on small-scale agriculture and entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship has become an integral part of economic development strategies in the world. Globally, entrepreneurship has been credited with many positive changes including job creation, wealth creation and innovation. The world of entrepreneurship has been going through changes and transformation using industrialised machinery, innovative technologies and sustainable farming practices (Ihemezie et al, 2021). In South Africa, the government has prioritised the development of SMMEs to curb unemployment and to alleviate poverty. Nonetheless, the lowest entrepreneurial activities have been recorded in South Africa in recent years according to the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) reports (Hlebela,2020). Current research such as the study of (Ogujiuba, 2021) indicated that limited and inadequate financial investments, lack of resources, infrastructure, poor education and skills, and poor access to markets starting a small-scale business in South Africa is very risky and the country itself has a harsh attitude towards failure, which inhibits many potential entrepreneurs to take the initiative.

To a smaller extent, the ability of the individual also plays a role in determining the success rate of the start-up. Beresford (2021) believes that for small-scale agriculture SMMEs to thrive in South Africa, there is a need to promote a supportive entrepreneurial environment to attract

individuals to launch their businesses. Thus, encouraging an entrepreneurial culture is essential for the future growth of the country's agriculture sector Sargani, Zhou, Raza & Wei, (2020).

1.3 Background to the research problem

While the world of agriculture is vast and rapidly changing, with supportive investment, policies at local and national levels, agriculture offers new opportunities to many rural farmers and youth to move out of poverty. Pathways to move out of poverty and unemployment are also opened through small-scale farming and entrepreneurship of high value in the emerging rural, and on farm economy (World Development Report, 2019). While the agriculture sector is defined as all activities relating to farm products Velasco, Mendoza, Aznar & Gallego (2021) farming and the processing and distribution activities that add value to farm products remains underfunded in South Africa. While it is also a springboard for agri-business that creates linkages with the public and private sector, youth unemployment has remained high in South Africa's rural areas Chipfupa & Tagwi (2021).

Moreover, Musara (2020) argued that the increase in unemployment in South Africa is not producing enough entrepreneurs who can contribute to job creation in rural areas. Entrepreneurial activities within the rural areas are done mainly for survival as opposed to for a return on investment at community level, and thus contributing to the provincial economy. The challenge for entrepreneurs in the rural areas of the Eastern Cape, like any other province, is to identify key factors for building an environment in which entrepreneurial activities can thrive Nguza (2020).

Drawing from Mdoda, Obi, Ncoyini, Christian & Mayekiso (2022), the Eastern Cape province has received fewer economic gains through agriculture than other South African provinces over the years due to inefficient growth of the agriculture sector, lack of access to markets and poor funding. These factors hold significance for future economic growth in the province. On the other hand, the tourism and mining sectors have contributed towards the province's economic growth. These two sectors have been identified as the main driving forces for economic growth and development in the province. Other service sectors such as manufacturing industries have also played a role towards the economic development of the province and the country.

Nonetheless, for youth employment creation and reduction of poverty in the province, the situation still remains dire and needs to be improved by taking advantage of new opportunities

currently being presented by the Republic of South Africa. It is indicated in the State of the Nation address (SONA) 2022 and 2023, that the rate of job creation is stagnant in the region and unemployment has been skyrocketing over the years. According to Modiba (2009) the unemployment situation is likely to worsen over the coming years, hence provincial agriculture seeks to transform a low productivity economy to a semi-industrialised commercial one that is led by entrepreneurship and high productive agricultural activities. Ndlovu, Mwale & Zuwarimwe (2021) argued that while the agricultural sector in the province receives numerous support to leverage small-scale farmers starting their agri-businesses, not many farmers have benefited from these government sponsored activities due to irregularities and inconsistencies within the Land Reform for Agriculture Development Programme (LRAD) in the province. Provision of infrastructure through the Comprehensive Support Programme (CASP); provision of farm machinery and equipment through the Mechanisation Revolving Credit Access Scheme (MERECAS); access to finance and credit services through Micro Finance in South Africa (MAFISA) have not benefited most of the farmers and the youth in the province. More support is required towards reducing poverty and unemployment in the province where interventions should strive to change the mindset of people to take on agriculture as a business and not only as a means to survival Cele & Wale (2020).

1.4 Statement of research problem

The Eastern Cape province like any other province in the country has low entrepreneurial activity rates due to poor education, poor literacy rates and a high start-up failure rate relative to other provinces such as the Gauteng and Western Cape provinces. According to Ijatuyi, Oladele, Abiolu & Omotayo (2022) improving the quality of education in the province and raising entrepreneurial activity through government sponsored activities could play a considerable positive role in promoting economic development in the Eastern Cape province through farming and agriculture. Corrective measures should seek to boost the youths' perceptions of agriculture as an alternative form of employment to reduce the current unemployment rates affecting the country. Adopting the most appropriate measures to create conducive entrepreneurial activities for producing more entrepreneurs is required in the Eastern Cape province.

Encouraging and releasing local people's entrepreneurial energies are essential to the achievement of greater economic development in the province and to the continuing regeneration of the economy over time (Harper, 2003). In the province, there have been

several agriculture and entrepreneurship activities and some of the people have seized these opportunities to start their agri-businesses. Nevertheless, most of the established small-scale agri-businesses in the province have been unable to grow and formalise into large-scale commercial agri-businesses. Shabangu (2021) believes that many small agricultural enterprises that have been established in the province through the Land Reform for Agriculture Development Programme (LRAD) and the Comprehensive Support Programme (CASP) have failed before even reaching their maturity stage. Many farming enterprises that were state funded in the Eastern Cape still fail to grow beyond marginal existence despite the support they receive from the government and non-governmental institutions.

According to Henderson (2010) the challenge in the province is rural-urban migration, poor education and literacy levels on agriculture and entrepreneurship as well as a lack of robust policies to monitor progress and development. Current education levels in the province and some of the government's policies have failed to create a conducive environment in which agri-businesses can thrive in the Eastern Cape. This study interrogates the role of agriculture in promoting entrepreneurship in rural areas and examines why most of these start-up agri-businesses fail despite the support they receive from the government and non-governmental organisations. The significance of entrepreneurship activities in the Eastern Cape province requires current conditions to be improved; this study therefore investigates the role(s) played by small-scale agriculture in stimulating entrepreneurial activities in South Africa's rural areas. The study sought to identify factors that would improve and foster entrepreneurship activities in the rural Eastern Cape to help improve the image of agriculture amongst the youth from the area.

1.5 Research questions

The research questions of the study are outlined as follows:

1.5.1 Main research question

What role does small-scale agriculture play in stimulating entrepreneurship activities in South Africa's rural areas?

1.5.2 Sub-questions

- How do the youth from rural areas perceive the role of small-scale agriculture in creating entrepreneurship opportunities?

- What strategies can be implemented to help improve the image of agriculture amongst the youth from the rural areas?
- What role does the South African government play to create entrepreneurship opportunities through small-scale agriculture?

1.6 Research Aim and Objectives

The aim of this study is to investigate the role of small-scale agriculture in promoting youth entrepreneurship and employment in South Africa's rural areas; the primary objective of this study is to investigate levels of entrepreneurial activity in the province and to devise strategies to create a favourable climate where agri-business and entrepreneurship will thrive. The secondary objectives of this study are outlined as follows:

- To understand how the youth from rural areas perceive the role of small-scale agriculture in stimulating entrepreneurship activities in South Africa's rural areas.
- To identify the strategies that can be implemented to help improve the image of agriculture amongst the rural youth to develop entrepreneurial capacity to strengthen their start-ups.
- Understand the role(s) played by the South African government in creating youth employment opportunities through small-scale agriculture.
- Understand the challenges faced by the rural youth when venturing into agri-business and farming as a lifestyle.

Table 1:1: Summary of research questions and objectives of the study

Research Aim	The aim of this study is to investigate the role of small-scale agriculture in stimulating entrepreneurship activities in South Africa's rural areas.

Main Research Question	What role does small-scale agricultural play in stimulating entrepreneurship activities in South Africa's rural areas?	
Research Sub-questions	**Objectives**	**Research Methods**
How do the rural youth from rural areas perceive the role of small-scale agriculture in stimulating entrepreneurship activities in South Africa's rural areas?	Understand how the rural youth perceive the role of small-scale agriculture in stimulating entrepreneurship activities in South Africa's rural areas.	Questionnaires, Interviews, Participant observations
What strategies can be implemented to help improve the image of agriculture amongst the rural youth?	Identify the strategies that can be implemented to help improve the image of agriculture amongst the rural youth.	Questionnaires, Interviews, Participant observations
What role(s) does the South African government play to stimulate entrepreneurship opportunities through small-scale agriculture?	Understand the role(s) played by the South African government to stimulate entrepreneurship opportunities through small-scale agriculture.	Questionnaires, Interviews, Participant observations

1.7 Preliminary literature review

Secondary data could provide a starting point for research and offers the advantage of low cost and availability. Information on the current literature was obtained through government articles, research journals and databases as well as books from the library. Internet search was used to understand the concept of small-scale agriculture and entrepreneurship. The

concepts of agriculture and entrepreneurship were discussed to provide an outline of agri-business and its importance to the economic growth of a country. The main purpose of this literature discussion was to guide the reader(s) to familiarise and understand the topic at hand.

This was then followed by another discussion on the role of SMMEs education on entrepreneurship and agri-business. The key focus of this discourse was based on how the South African government should make significant efforts to redress its current educational system and promote entrepreneurship education in schools. Some studies in the literature have also highlighted the importance of education in agriculture; it is therefore essential that this aspect be clearly understood, or efforts to address the current state of youth development and employment may remain futile.

Proctor & Lucchesi (2012) argued that agued educational system and adequate knowledge of farming is also likely to assist some of the youth and small-scale subsistence farmers to engage frequently in entrepreneurial activities for growth instead of for survival, as they currently do. A change in the mindset of how agriculture education is perceived in the province was also addressed in this discussion. Adding to this are studies of Alarima (2018) which argued that lack of a good education on agricultural activities is one of the contributing factors as to why some youth leave rural areas to migrate to urban areas instead of staying and being productive on the land. Lack of education has also been attributed to why most small-scale SMME start-ups in the agriculture business also fail. The study takes into consideration that Technological-Organisational-Environmental Financial (TOEF) factors are also some of the causes why the youth leave rural areas to migrate to urban areas in pursuit of a more financially successful life. The above discussions led to the conclusion and summary of the entire literature review chapter. This is then followed by the research approach and methodology in the next section which deals with some of the methods that will be suitable for the current study.

1.8 Research methodology

To achieve the primary objective of this study, primary data was collected by means of structured questionnaires and interviews to determine key provincial entrepreneurial activities in the Eastern Cape. Since most research designs and methodologies are qualitative, quantitative, and mixed method approach, this study followed a mixed-method approach which involved a combination of interviews and questionnaires (Creswell, 2009). A mixed research approach uses both qualitative and quantitative research approaches and it has

been adopted in this study (Creswell, 2017). This approach is supported by Saunders et al. (200:188) who state that primary data can be collected from questionnaires and interviews, the researcher's observations, and documents. Furthermore, a mixed-method approach was also selected for this research because it facilitates the logical assimilation of quantitative and qualitative information within a single examination or sustained programme of inquiry. The approach allowed the researcher to gather and scrutinise both qualitative (open- ended) and quantitative (closed-ended) data. The mixed-method approach allowed the researcher to gain more insight and to study human feelings and emotions about the subject matter from the open-ended questions (interviews).

1.8.1 Sampling method

Probability sampling was used to provide all participants in the population an equal chance of being selected. The sample was drawn from agriculture institutions in the Mhlontlo municipality of the Eastern Cape, which is the geographical focus of the study. Agriculture institutions in this selected municipal district were categorised according to the main activities in which they were involved. The sample was randomly selected amongst college students and the officials of TARDI and WSU students. The sample was drawn from first to third year students who were studying at TARDI and WSU.

1.8.2 Sample Frame and Participants

The population consisted of 80 participants (n=80) of which 60 (n=60) of those participants were students from TARDI and Walter Sisulu University (WSU); while the remaining sample of 20 participants (n=20) were mostly composed of 6 programme managers, 6 lecturers, 6 local farmers, and 2 officials from the department of agriculture who were interviewed to gain greater insight into entrepreneurship activities they were involved in at their respective institutions. The requirement for the sample had been that each participant should be affiliated to or registered at TARDI and WSU on full-time or part-time study. The participants needed to be residing in the chosen municipality and should also have been beneficiaries of some entrepreneurship programmes in their community. Some participants were also interviewed through in-depth-interviews using ZOOM and Ms Teams.

1.8.3 Data analysis

Data collected were analysed using computer aided data analysis software such as SPSS and AtlasTi, from Cape Peninsula University of Technology's Centre for Postgraduate studies.

1.8.4 Ethical consideration

Drawing from Myers (2009), the study applied ethical consideration as moral principles in the research process i.e., is how the research was conducted in relation to the participants during the research process (Simons, 2009). According to Etherington (2007), trust and respect should be created in the process. These ethical principles enabled the researcher to generate trust and the necessary conditions to gather valid data from cases. Participation in the proposed study was voluntary, and participants were free to withdraw without any repercussions. The study excluded participants who do not give informed consent. Participants were not coerced to discuss sensitive topics, nor were interviewed to generate arguments or potentially harmful procedures (e.g., drugs or other materials to be administered to participants). Participants were treated with respect. Finally, the study did not involve any materials or processes that could cause harm to the environment.

1.9 Limitations of the study

The following aspects were identified as limitations of the study:

1.9.1 Limited sample size of students and lecturers

The study only focused on (n=60) students, (n=6) lecturers, (n=6) programme managers, (n=6) up-coming farmers, and (n=2) officials from agriculture departments within Mhlontlo municipality. This is a limitation because the sample excluded successful farmers who were beneficiaries of government programmes on entrepreneurship; administering questionnaires to a larger sample size could have yielded different results by bringing a varied insight to the study.

1.9.2 Limited time to conduct quantitative survey

The impact of Covid-19, lack of time and lack of financial resources put a constraint on the study. Lack of time to undertake a comprehensive and in-depth quantitative factual research can be attributed to the impact of Covid-19. This limitation resulted in a different understanding of entrepreneurship concepts and processes.

1.9.3 Limited geographical scope of the study

The study only focused on two rural districts, being Tsolo and Qumbu within the Mhlontlo municipality in the Eastern Cape province. This is a limitation because the findings from this

study cannot be taken as a general representation of agriculture entrepreneurship and of entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector for the rest of South Africa.

1.10 Delineation of the research

As in all studies, the limitations of the research need to be pinpointed. The parameters of this current study were as follows:

- The study only focused on the impact of the role of small-scale agriculture in promoting youth entrepreneurship and curbing unemployment in rural areas. The focus of the study to small-scale farming entrepreneurship was informed by the fact that the majority of the country's population live in rural areas where small-scale farming is the main economic activity (ASDSP, 2014).
- Only individual affiliated in TARDI within Tsolo and Qumbu and those affiliated in WSU were involved in the study.
- All contenders were asked to respond in the English language only despite isiXhosa being the main language spoken in the Eastern Cape

1.11 Significance of the research

The findings of this study will greatly inform policy makers in the Eastern Cape and in the country in the formulation of suitable interventions and strategies that enhance small-scale agri-preneurs among the youth and smallholder farmers for wealth creation and employment generation. The findings of this study will provide guidelines to the youth and smallholder farmers in the Eastern Cape to enhance their entrepreneurial activities to increase their competitiveness in the market. Although it is not a requirement for this study, the findings may contribute to the body of knowledge on small-scale farming and agri-preneurship in rural areas and underdeveloped remote communities in general. The study creates an opportunity for other researchers to undertake further studies on this topic to fill any research gaps that may be left by this study.

1.12 Outline of thesis

Chapter 1 outlines the scope of this study. It includes the background of the study, research problem, research questions, research aims, and objectives and the methodology used to determine the role of agriculture to stimulate entrepreneurship in rural areas. The chapter ends with a brief outline of the thesis.

Chapter 2 highlights the literature review on agriculture. It articulates and explores the concept of agriculture to stimulate entrepreneurship in rural areas as well as examining challenges faced by SMMEs in rural areas. The chapter also provides a global view and a local perspective on entrepreneurship within the South African rural context.

Chapter 3 focuses on the research methodology and design for the study. It highlights in detail data collection techniques and discussion on the approach for the research. A justification of research methods and techniques used for data collection is also presented in this chapter. The chapter also elaborates on data analysis in general and the data analysis that was used to examine information for this research in particular. The chapter concludes by discussing ethics and how ethical clearance was maintained throughout the study.

Chapter 4 is a presentation of both qualitative and quantitative findings from the study. It also provides an in-depth discussion of findings leading to the final chapter, Chapter 5, which concludes the study.

Chapter 5 is the concluding chapter of the study. It recaptures the study's main research questions and how they were answered. It also provides a detailed analysis of key findings as well as further recommendations for future studies. These recommendations are in line with key findings that were obtained from the study.

CHAPTER 2: THE LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

The synopsis, study objectives, problem statement, research questions, and significance of the study were highlighted in the preceding chapter, which laid out the main points of this investigation. It provided an explanation of how agriculture affects young people's employment, entrepreneurial endeavors, and the significance of agriculture entrepreneurship in reducing poverty and unemployment. The chapter concluded with a summary of the thesis and how each chapter will contribute to the overall understanding.

This chapter carries an analysis of related literature on the role of agriculture entrepreneurship towards reducing poverty and unemployment in the rural areas. This chapter of the current study presents literature on this issue as well as endeavours made by the Republic of South Africa to address its own challenges of addressing agriculture and agri-business in the rural areas to curb youth unemployment. By so doing, this chapter highlights some of the major challenges and opportunities that affect both economically developed nations and those less economically developed nations.

Furthermore, the current chapter also identifies some of the key theories and frameworks that have helped transform rural areas into economic hubs for employment opportunities for the rural youth. Some studies in the field on the impact of agriculture and entrepreneurship on rural youth and smallholder farmers have also highlighted the importance of education in agriculture. Key arguments from this field indicate the need to underscore the importance of entrepreneurship education to address the current state of youth unemployment in rural areas.

This chapter further stresses the importance of developing good educational systems and adequate farming education and technology to help liberate the youth and other rural folk from the burdens of unemployment. Adopting this approach, it is hoped that knowledge transfer of farming especially, for the youth and small-scale subsistence farmers in rural areas, will help promote entrepreneurship which may yield high profits in return. Some studies also argue that the lack of a good education on agricultural activities is one of the contributing factors fuelling high rural-urban migration among the youth who leave instead of staying in the rural areas and being productive on the land.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

Yusuf (2014) outlines that agriculture plays a vital role towards the economic development of every state. Smallholder farming entrepreneurship is considered as a multi-dimensional concept that can be explained from several perspectives such as psychological, sociological, and economic among other perspectives. This study focuses on Schumpeter's economic theory to understand different perspectives of smallholder farming entrepreneurship.

2.2.1 Economic Perspective

Schumpeter's (1983) economic theory advances the view that an entrepreneur takes calculated economic risks to grow his or her business and maximise profits to grow the business while bearing uncertainty caused by the possibility of failure. Thus, his assumption is that entrepreneurs are not satisfied with simply earning their own living but are expected to take advantage of favourable economic conditions to grow their business enterprises.

In this theory, Schumpeter (1983) asserts that economic change revolves around innovation, entrepreneurial activities, and market power to prove that innovation-originated market power can provide better results than price and competition. In this theory, functioning innovation through improving existing products and services is attributed to the entrepreneur. The theory further advances the view that an economic system is a closed circular flow that is in a state of equilibrium through a continuous reiteration of the flows between buyers and sellers.

According to Hebert & Link (2009), the disturbance of the circular flow is thus linked to the entrepreneur who plays a fundamental role as an innovator. The theory further assumes entrepreneurs innovate when economic conditions are favourable. These economic conditions include industrial policy, taxation policy, access to finance, availability of raw materials, and access to technology and infrastructure (Landstrom, 2010). The theory guided the researcher on the choice of independent variables, access to formal education and finance. Access to education and finance are amidst the economic factors that can stimulate the youth and smallholders' farmers into successful enterprise creation as per Schumpeter's (1983) economic theory.

2.2.2 Psychological Perspective

To understand the psychological perspective that drives entrepreneurs into entrepreneurship activities, the McClelland's (1971) achievement theory was also used to understand

entrepreneur's psychological perspective on entrepreneurship activities. In McClelland's theory of achievement motivation, people have three motives for accomplishing things identified as: need for affiliation, need for power, and need for achievement, depending on their dominant motivator. These motivators are learned behaviour which is why the theory is sometimes referred to as the learned needs theory. In this regard, individuals with the need to achieve attitude develop personality traits such as aspiration to independence, target orientation, enthusiasm, self-confidence, creativity and tolerance to uncertainties that can naturally make an individual an entrepreneur (Thompson, 2009). The theory suggests that the entrepreneurial actions of the youth and smallholder farmers are determined by their personality among other entrepreneurial traits that are developed through the need to achieve attitude.

2.2.3 Sociological Perspective

Mohanty (2005) states that sociological perspective starts with the premise that economic development problems are non-economic and emphasises cultural values and social sanctions as key elements that determines the supply of entrepreneurs in the society. An individual's personality is largely moulded by the mode of child rearing and schooling practices common in each culture. These assertions assume that entrepreneurial practices are largely inherited, and offspring of entrepreneurial parents are more likely to be entrepreneurs and will be more successful compared to others (Kwabena, 2011). According to sociological perspective, individuals who grow up in an entrepreneurial community are more likely to benefit from these entrepreneurial activities by becoming entrepreneurs through existing social networks, established markets and better access to finance that encourage him or her to start their own business at an early age (Freytag & Thurik, 2010). This framework of an entrepreneurial role is defined by the personality of the individual, expectations of the social group and the operational needs of the functions to be performed. Sociological perspective is relevant in this study as it guides the understanding of indicators of entrepreneurial culture and social networks that influences youth and smallholder entrepreneurship.

2.3 Conceptual Framework

According to the information provided in section 2.2 above, the conceptual framework below represents the researcher's understanding of different variables guiding this study and how they connect with each other. According to Gorard (2013) the conceptual framework identifies information required in the research investigation as they guide in pursuing the investigation. To add to this view, Mugenda (2011) also highlighted that a conceptual framework is a tool

that assists the researcher to understand their study as well as to increase their awareness of the situation under scrutiny. The conceptual framework below was informed by psychological, anthropological, and sociological theories of entrepreneurship as outlined in section 2.2 above. The study was based on the framework outlined in Fig 2.1 below:

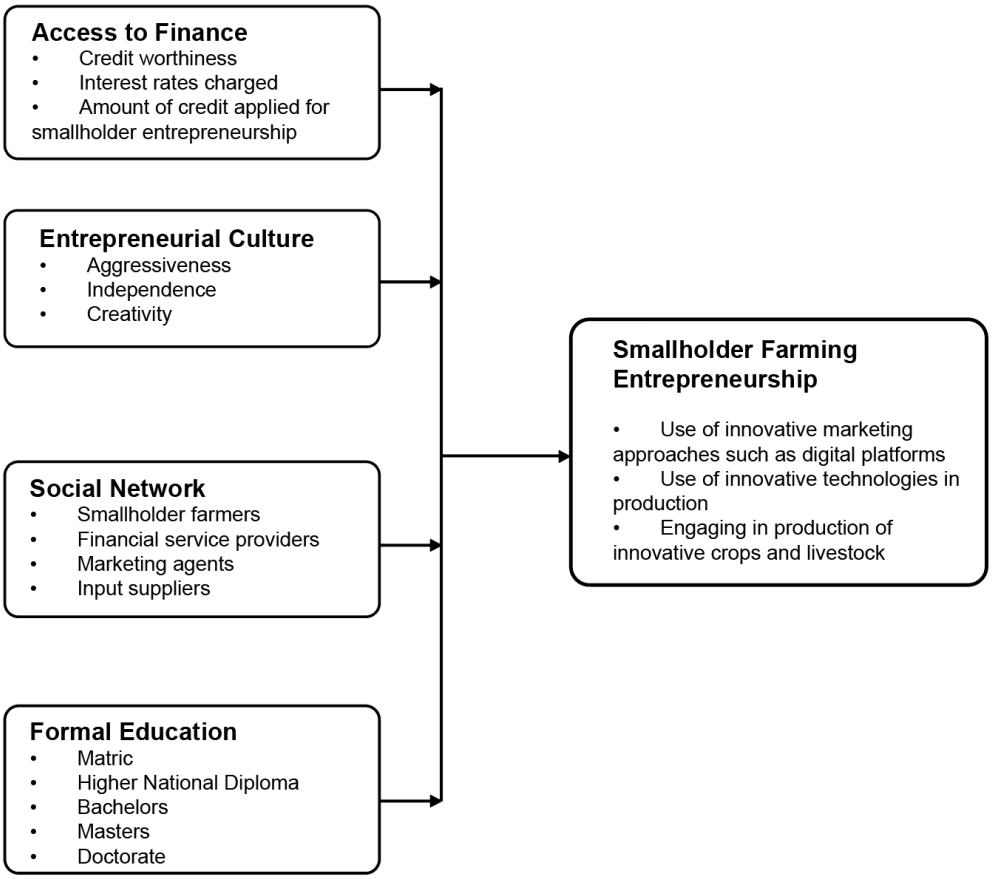

Figure 2:1: *Conceptual Framework*

Under smallholder farming entrepreneurship, the aspects that were considered were provision of services to other farmers, use of new farm technologies, innovative market practices and specialty production such as herb production (Sharma, Tiwari & Sharma, 2010). In addition, access to finance in the form of credit acquired by small-holder farmers was also taken into consideration. Other aspects such as availability of financial service providers and changes in the interest rate charged by various financial service providers were also considered under access to finance to the smallholder farmers (See fig 2.1 above) (Chidzero, Ellis & Kumar, 2009). Other aspects included in figure 2.1 above also encompasses the level of formal education and various education certificates acquired at diverse levels of formal education. These certificates include a Matric certificate, undergraduate, graduate and post graduate certificate (Block & Sander, 2010). On entrepreneurial culture, community cultural perception

was considered in terms of risk-taking behaviour, independence, and the social status of entrepreneurs in the community and their creativity.

2.4 Entrepreneurship

The environment of farm business is changing rapidly, and the business environment is no longer simple and straight forward. Some major changes as described in the study of De Wolf and Schoorlemmer (2007:11) are as follows: legislation, changing consumer needs, and changes in food consumption patterns, a changing environment and growing pressure on the rural area, climate change and load shedding. Thus, placing emphasis on entrepreneurship is considered to be a crucial dynamic force in the general development of small businesses.

Entrepreneurship is defined by many as an activity to undertake something, to fulfil needs and wants through innovation and by starting a business (Kuratko & Hodgetts, 2001:28). From a psychological perspective, entrepreneurship is a way of thinking and reasoning that is opportunity obsessed and leadership balanced as defined by Timmons (1999:25). In the same light, it is the mindset and process to create and develop economic activity by blending risk-taking, sound management, creativity, and innovation within a new or existing organisation.

Another definition by Wennekers and Thurik (1999) defines entrepreneurship as a dynamic process of creating wealth by individuals who assume major risks in terms of time and career commitments to provide value for some product or service. It is the application of energy for initiating and building an enterprise which can be any in economic sector and can be either formal or informal. It is the ability to recognise an opportunity where others see challenges. Entrepreneurship can be defined as having four major key components; it involves a process and is therefore manageable, it creates value in organisations and marketplace where there was nothing before, it requires resources uniquely integrated to create value, and it is the outcome of an identified opportunity.

2.4.1 Entrepreneurship in the agricultural sector

The degree of entrepreneurship in the agriculture sector is dependent on three dimensions; risk-taking, innovation and proaction (Morris et al., 2001). Research into entrepreneurship draws upon many disciplinary foundations which include sociology, economics, anthropology, and history (Winter,1997). However, the research into farm entrepreneurship and the

applicability of farming with other business sectors is relatively new as evidenced by the study of McElwee (2004). Knudson et al., (2004) argue that the role of entrepreneurship and innovation has been given little emphasis in agricultural economics. However, it has become a priority with policy makers, and it is a critical aspect of value-added agriculture. The aims of entrepreneurial development in agri-business are modernisation and reconstruction of fragmented agriculture and the creation of new jobs in the rural areas. Entrepreneurship is relevant in the agricultural context because farmers need to find ways to adapt their businesses to the changing situation. The ongoing changes bring with them new opportunities for farm business; from this perspective, entrepreneurship is needed in order to recognise and exploit these opportunities since it is concerned with finding ways and means to create and develop a profitable farm business.

2.4.2 Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs)

Small business means a separate and distinct business entity, including its branches or subsidiaries. It is predominantly carried on in any sector of the economy in line with the industrial classification which can be classified as micro, a very small, a small or medium enterprise (Chimuteka,2013). The new SMME policy in South Africa distinguishes between the following within the agricultural industrial classification.

Micro-enterprises: According to Haan (2006) micro-enterprises also known as informal sector enterprises typically employ one or two people, including the owner, and may even be part-time operations. In addition, they normally operate in an unstructured manner, usually from residential premises, and lack formal registration.

Small enterprises: Liedholm & Mead (2013) states that small enterprises operate in a more structured manner and may have links to medium or large-scale firms as markets for their goods and services. They have up to 50 employees and achieve an annual gross turnover of R 2.0 million.

Medium enterprises: Berisha & Pula (2015) believe that these have a more outward looking approach to marketing their products and may be involved in exporting and have links to larger firms. They have between 25-100 employees and an annual turnover of between R4.0 m and a total gross asset value of R4.0 million.

2.4.3 Types of Entrepreneurships

There are various types of entrepreneurships which can be categorised as segment entrepreneurship such as independent entrepreneurs, corporate spin-offs and intrapreneurs. Others use size to differentiate entrepreneurial business into micro, small, and medium as a preferred approach. However, another popular way to categorise entrepreneurship, as identified by Dzansi (2004), is as either necessity or opportunity driven. The difference between necessity and opportunity entrepreneurship is largely reliant upon the motivation for activity. Necessity entrepreneurs are forced into the situation to avoid unemployment and they have no other options, whereas opportunity driven entrepreneurs focus on identifying and exploiting business opportunities for profit making and are pulled into entrepreneurship more out of choice (Reynolds et al, 2005). The other distinction lies in the skills gap wherein necessity entrepreneurs lack education, and training (Driver, 2001). These types of entrepreneurs often lack required general business skills and resources to create sustainable business which could possibly contribute to the low conversion rate in South Africa. Push factors such as unemployment, retrenchments, and affirmative action force people to become necessity entrepreneurs just to survive and provide for immediate needs and could be perceived as hindering entrepreneurship in South Africa.

2.5 Characteristics of entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship

Individuals are widely recognised as the primary agents of entrepreneurial activity since the origin of any innovation, start-up or entrepreneurial decision is traceable to a single person. Psychological studies on entrepreneurship concentrate on studying who an entrepreneur is and the personality traits of an entrepreneur. Butler (2006) states that entrepreneurship is a combination of complex interacting factors that determine the way in which an entrepreneur engages in enterprising activity that ultimately results in the degree of success that will be achieved. Thus, the following traits are key and common to most entrepreneurs according to Kerr & xu (2018):

- **Attitude** – having an awareness of the importance of customer focus, the application of creativity and imagination which defines personal standards and values, the perception of enterprise as a positive activity.
- **Personality** – in terms of possessing resilience, tenacity, opportunity spotting and taking, and risk-taking.

- **Motivation** – personal motivation and aspiration, the longing to make an impact, necessity for accomplishment or self-satisfaction, desire for status, to generate and accumulate wealth.
- **Skills** – ability to network, to think strategically, business knowledge acumen, people management and interpersonal skills, gaining access to resources.

Regardless of variations in economic development, entrepreneurs with high motivation will always find ways to maximise economic achievement. Van Aardt et al. (2009) points out that a number of studies have been undertaken to identify the characteristics of a successful entrepreneur, and to date, no single researcher has been able to pinpoint the exact personality traits that will predict whether or not one will be successful as an entrepreneur.

2.5.1 Status of entrepreneurship in the study area

The theoretical justifications for the role of entrepreneurship in economic development has been found to have a significant impact on the growth of economies through the generation of employment, productivity, and innovation (Abor & Biekpe, 2006). Apart from their key roles as job providers, entrepreneurs initiate technological innovation, production of new products and the establishment of new enterprises.

With most of the South Africa's population living in conditions of extreme poverty caused by a high unemployment rate, the economic realities of South Africa's entrepreneurship are harsh (Ajuruchukwu & Sanelise, 2016). Youth unemployment remains one of the challenges affecting policy makers in South Africa. South African policy makers and economists around the country are struggling to deal with escalating youth unemployment trends which top the agenda of their economic reports and policies. It remains woefully a major challenge to redress these issues especially in the agriculture sector in rural areas and in the informal sector of the economy.

Recent economic developments in the Sahel region and elsewhere in Africa have shown a high rural-urban migration with most of the youth leaving rural areas to seek formal employment in urban areas (Flahaux & Haas, 2016). This has caused an unforeseen influx of young people entering the formal sector where employment opportunities are slim because of high demand. Drawing from Flahaux & Haas (Ibid.), the oversupply of the labour force in an economy that does not have equal employment opportunities and job creation puts pressure on both policymakers and the government as they struggle to find a place for the new entrants

to the labour market. It is therefore imperative for South Africa to be entrepreneurial and generate new ventures that will, in turn, generate more job opportunities and increase the standard of living for society (Si, Ahlstrom, Wei & Cullen, 2021).

For South African policy makers to realise the importance of agricultural entrepreneurship in curbing rural youth unemployment and urban migration, they need to understand the challenges faced by the youth from the rural areas and the reasons why they turn away from rural farming in pursuit of urban opportunities. Identifying the root cause of these challenges presents an opportunity to understand why most rural youth turn away from farming and most importantly why they never get access to their own farmland and other agricultural opportunities (White, 2012).

In most economically developed nations like USA and other first world countries, small-scale subsistence farmers have enjoyed continued support and benefits offered by their governments through farm mechanisation and capital to fund their farming activities (Musa & Phillip, 2015). Government intervention strategies and support structures in these countries have created a viable environment for generating youth employment in the agricultural sector. The majority of the youth in most European countries perceive farming as a career choice and are actually studying towards farming degrees. Upon completion of their studies, most rural youth pursue careers in agriculture and are even furthering their studies within the field (Poulton *et al.,* 2010).

The current state of South African agricultural entrepreneurship focus is largely based and heavily reliant on other world markets for marketing and promotion of agricultural products; very little has been done to produce and promote small-scale farming activities in the most remote rural parts of the country as was done in Europe and the United States of America (Chikazunga et al., 2012). Many emerging small-scale farmers faced and still continue to face difficulties in accessing formal agricultural markets (Khapayi & Celliers, 2016); this has caused most rural farmers currently available in South Africa to lose interest in the small-scale emerging farmers from the rural areas and small towns (ibid). Lack of market participation has been a common feature and a dilemma faced by the emerging farmers worldwide and is identified by Bie'nabe and Vermuelen (2011) as a constraint to emergent farmer development here in South Africa.

2.5.2. Changing rural economy, rural employment, and youth

Throughout the developing and emerging economy countries, a high proportion of the population depend directly on agriculture for their livelihood and wellbeing, i.e., the Agricultural Population (AP) (Proctor & Lucchesi, 2012). In 2010 the AP represented 38 per cent of the global population. For some of the most populous regions of the developing and emerging economies, this proportion is significantly higher, for example 49 percent for Asia and the Pacific and 55 percent for sub-Saharan Africa. However, it is lower in the Middle East and North Africa, and in Latin America and the Caribbean, at 23 and 16 percent respectively. In Europe and North America, the AP makes up only 5 percent of the population. These figures serve to emphasise the differential dependence upon agriculture between the developed and the developing and emerging economies (Table 2.1 and Fig 2.2)

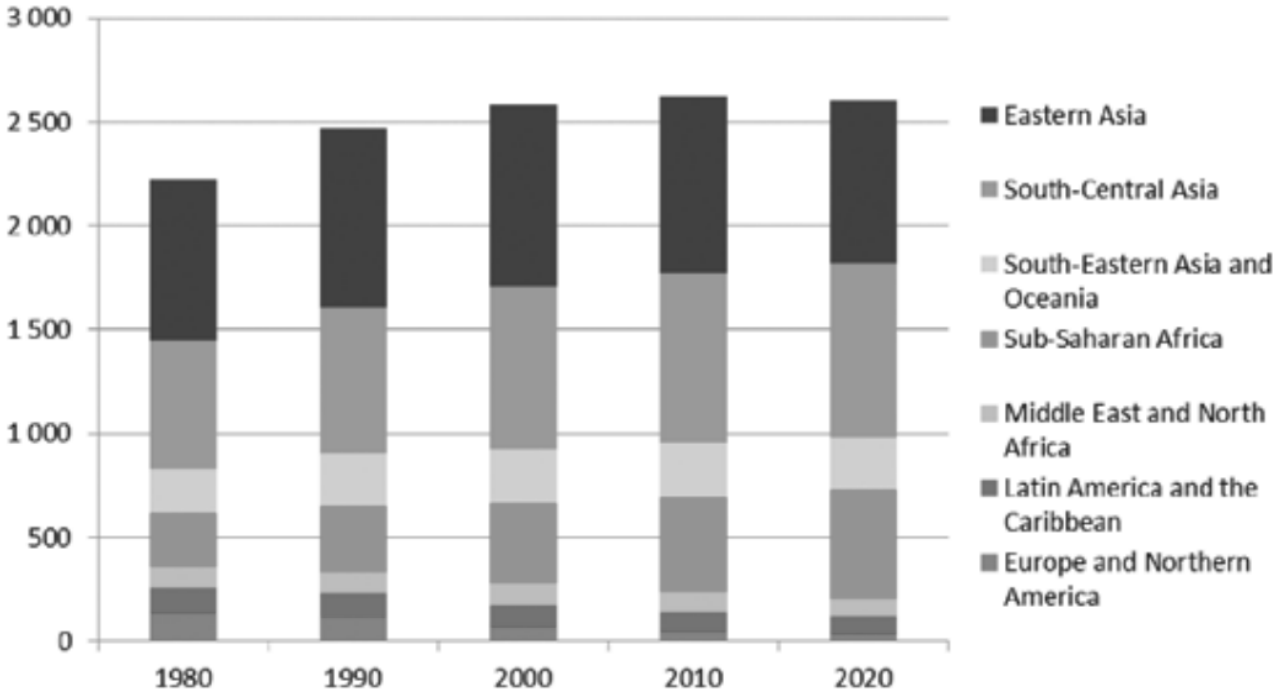

Figure 2:2: *Agriculture population trends and projections to 2020 in key regions*

Source: *Africa Development Bank*

Given Figure 2:2, Proctor & Lucchesi (2012) argued that in recent decades, the proportion of the population in all regions directly and indirectly dependent upon agriculture has declined and this is set to continue (projections to 2020). However, the numbers and trends in AP differ between regions. For the Asia and Pacific regions, the AP remains at around 1.9 billion (2000 and 2020) with sub-regional variations showing, for example, an overall decline in Eastern Asia to 783 million in 2020 but a steady increase in South-Central Asia from 778 million in 2000 to 834 million by 2020. In sub-Saharan Africa in the period 1990 to 2010, there has been

a 41 percent rise in the AP to some 450 million and this is projected to increase to 522 million by 2020. Nevertheless, there are significant regional variations within sub-Saharan Africa (Figure 2.1).

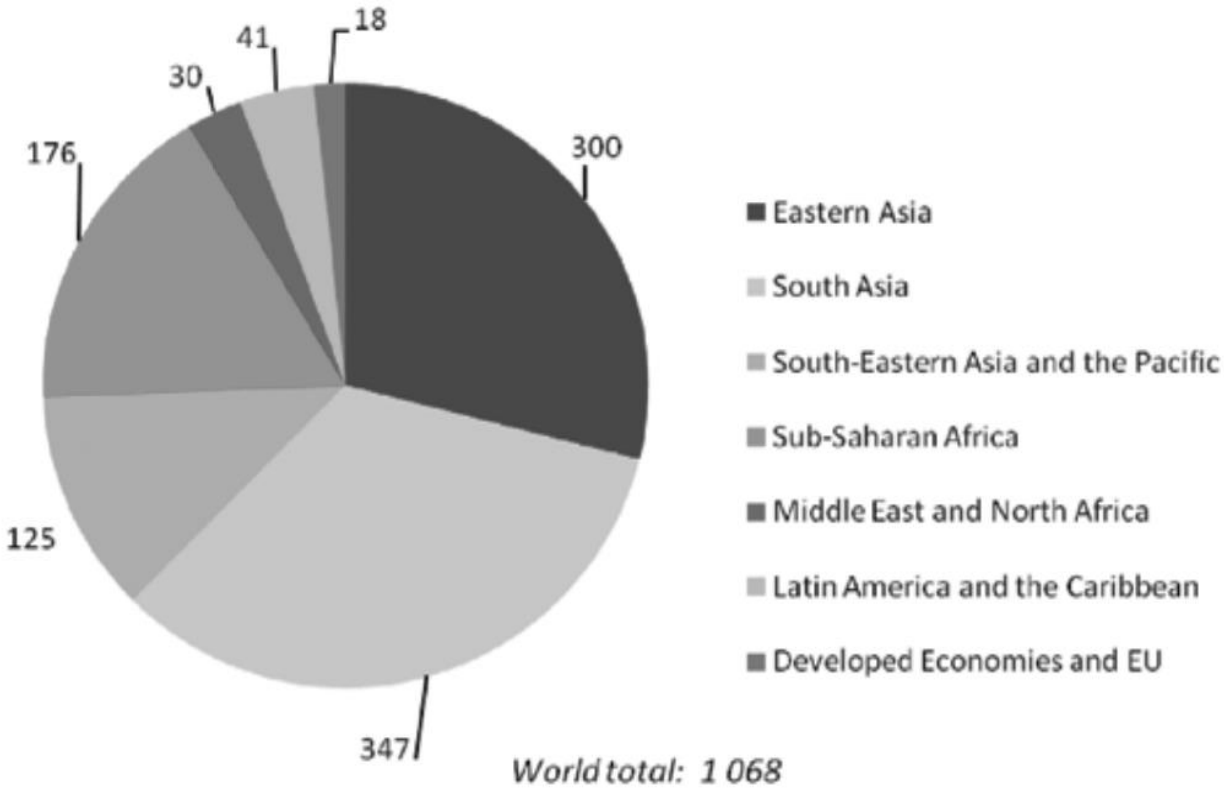

Figure 2:3: *Employment in the agriculture sector in key regions (2009)*

Source: *African Development Bank*

2.5.3 Agriculture work and labour

The wide range of land ownership patterns and methods of production gives rise to numerous types of labour relations and various forms of labour-force participation and employment in the agriculture sector. Those who work directly in agriculture have been summarised as wage-earners, self-employed, unpaid family members, and others including cooperative workers, people owning land as collective property, child labourers, and those engaged in non-market-based labour exchange (ILO, 2008).

According to Naik, Karmakar & Mohanasundaram (2023), agriculture is the second-largest source of employment worldwide after services, employing over one billion people globally in 2009. While the employment share in agriculture globally has declined steadily by some 5.2 % over the period 1999 to 2009, the number of workers in agriculture grew by 3 %. Over the same period there was significant regional growth in sub-Saharan Africa and North Africa (28 %)

and in South Asia (16 %) and in the Middle East (19 %) (Figure 2.1). In 2009, 59 % of total employment share in sub- Saharan Africa and 44.9 % in Asia and the Pacific, including 53.5 % in South Asia, are recorded as being engaged in the agriculture sector. Employment figures available are given for the national level only. Sector employment breakdown is therefore not available for the respective rural and urban populations. It might be assumed that for all regions the proportion of people engaged in agriculture is significantly higher in rural areas than the proportion at the national level indicates.

2.6 Rural entrepreneurship and youth unemployment

The development of agriculture and agri-business in rural areas has been a challenge to most states in Sub-Saharan Africa (Adekunle, 2013). Their challenge to develop sound agrarian economies stems from the fact that their agricultural and agri-business policies are weak and do not adequately address the needs of young people in rural areas. In this regard, key policy makers fail to realise the importance of sound agri-business policies that reduce youth unemployment in the rural areas. As a result, the majority of the youth migrate to urban areas on a greater scale in search of a better life and job opportunities to keep them sustained from poverty and hunger.

Drawing from Francis (2002) in developing countries, rural urban migration is not only caused by the lack of job opportunities and unemployment but also by tensions that arise between the elder generation and the younger generation on farming rights and ownership of land to farm. Owusu & Chigbu (2020) states that there is a gap that exists among the youth as they must wait for their elders to pass on or to give them exclusive rights before they can start to do any farming activities. This period of waiting is often accompanied by strict bureaucratic customary laws and cultural traditions that do not permit young people to own land. As a result of this uncertainty, the younger generation then develop a mindset to migrate to urban areas in search of a better life or better employment prospects. These tensions have led young people to believe that the ‘village’ (and also ‘farm’) can come to mean the place where you grow up, which you then leave in search of urban employment, but where you may later send your children to be in the care of their grandparents (and in many cases, to care for their grandparents), and where you may later return to be a farmer yourself, and perhaps be a smarter farmer than your parents, when land becomes available and urban work has provided some capital for improvements.

Ackah (2016) believes that in the past decade, youth unemployment across the globe has mostly been felt in the poorer region of third world countries especially in the rural areas where levels of unemployment have reached unprecedented high and alarming levels. In the rural regions, levels of unemployment have reached alarming rates with many youth and young adults having a poor quality of education or insufficient qualifications for formal employment in the formal sector of the economy. The study conducted by Tang, Lee, Huang & Zhou (2022) revealed that most youth in developing countries move to urban areas as a means of escaping the poverty and hardship of rural life soon after they finish their secondary education. In most cases where they are expected to help with farm chores, they migrate to urban areas and are forced to be unemployed over prolonged periods of time as job contestation is high due to competition from their urban counterparts (Everatt & Ebrahim 2020).

2.6.1 Unemployment and rural youth

Given the very nature of the informal sector and the way unemployment is measured, unemployment figures generally are not helpful in understanding the true nature of the utilisation of human capital in developing and emerging economies, particularly under-utilisation. However, unemployment figures can act as a barometer. For example, in 2010 the unemployment rates globally and across regions show that those of the youth (13.1 %) are nearly three times those of the adult population (4.8 %) (Table 2.1). According to Debrah (2007) global figures mask regional variations; for example, youth unemployment in sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East and North Africa is estimated at 23.8 % compared to adult unemployment of around 6.5 %. Very limited data are available on rural unemployment and, within that, rural youth unemployment.

Data from the limited country cases show that rural youth always experience higher unemployment rates than the economically active rural population at large (Table 2). Van der Geest (2010), acknowledged the difficulty in isolating rural youth as a distinct demographic group when describing their employment situation, including barriers to employment, in relation to that of urban youth and rural adults. Van der Geest (Op. Cit.) drew upon selected Living Standard Measurement Studies (LSMS), and while these country databases have a limited historical and geographic coverage, they allow for a detailed analysis of both quantitative and qualitative aspects of rural youth employment. Accordingly, the LSMS for Nicaragua, it was found that the rural youth attend school less often than their urban

counterparts, and working rural youth tend to be employed under more vulnerable conditions than urban youth and rural adults.

Moreover, (Proctor & Lucchesi, 2012) reported that unemployment is a 'luxury situation' for most youth and that young people in developing and emerging economy countries, particularly in low-income countries, cannot afford to be unemployed for a long period of time. It was stated that most youth in, for example, Tanzania and Ghana, and to a lesser extent in Bangladesh, are 'active', even though measures of job quality such as economic sector and employment status indicate they are not placed in the best jobs or conditions. There is an over-reliance on the agriculture sector and most youth work as own-account and/or as unpaid family workers. It is noteworthy that for some countries there are significant proportions of 'inactive' youth, which includes those who are not technically unemployed because they do not meet the active job search criteria but who would like to work (Yen 2010).

A lack of decent work, if experienced at an early age, threatens to compromise a person's future employment prospects, and frequently leads to unsuitable labour behaviour patterns that last a lifetime (Blustein et al, 2019). There is a demonstrated link between youth unemployment and social exclusion. The inability to find employment creates a sense of worthlessness and thus potentially idleness among young people that can lead to increased crime, mental health problems, violence, conflicts, and drug-taking. The most obvious gains then, in making the most of the productive potential of youth and ensuring the availability of decent employment opportunities, are the personal gains to the young people themselves (ILO, 2010b).

2.6.2 Impact of Agriculture and entrepreneurship on youth unemployment

Som, Burman, Sharma, Padaria, Paul & Singh (2018) argue that the impact of agriculture and agri-business on youth unemployment has been felt in rural areas although there is a lack of solutions and ideas to promote youth employment and job creation for the unemployed youth. Problems causing youth unemployment in most developing countries are born out of corrupt activities by politicians and policymakers as their policies and regulations fail to promote job creation. Instead of creating equal employment opportunities through these policies, most of them are destroying or repelling young people from taking an interest in farming (Bernstein 2004; Li 2009, 2010)

The studies conducted by White (2012) suggest that these policies create employment opportunities for the youth in the rural areas, there is very little evidence that suggests that these policies are indeed assisting to generate employment opportunities for the unemployed rural youth. There is little evidence that these policies increase employment prospects or earnings, as most youth, do not possess the entrepreneurial skills or the experience needed to start their own projects and businesses. In this scenario, youth from the rural areas are first required to gain relevant experience in the industry from the field in which they want to venture their entrepreneurship. This knowledge and experience will allow them to be more efficient on how to run their own businesses for profits.

However, agricultural activities and agri-business activities in the rural areas in most developing countries are at their lowest due to youth and the younger generation finding farming and life on the farm unattractive and laborious (Yeboah & Flynn, 2021). Because of this, rural youth and the younger generation are opting to migrate to urban areas for a better life as they are reluctant to stay on the farm. White (2012) believes that to understand better the reasons why young people turn away from agriculture we need to take account of a number of problems, including the chronic government neglect of small-scale farming agricultural activities and rural infrastructure and deskilling of the rural youth in these areas, and the problems of accessing land to farm while still young. These challenges present a difficult scenario for the rural youth to cope with the level of change that impacts them in rural areas.

Deskilling and lowly rural lifestyle and culture contribute to the rural youth not receiving a good education on how farming can contribute to improving their standard of living (Valle, 2012). Farming skills and the importance of farming is neglected because of the type of education they receive in the rural areas which is basic secondary education that only promotes the reading and writing of basic materials. A study by Katz (2004), described the deskilling process as an activity that does not prepare the youth for the rural environment, they live in nor does it provide the skills necessary to help them in their employment opportunities.

2.6.3 Importance of entrepreneurship on youth unemployment

Zoltan (2006), states that entrepreneurship plays an important economic role in job creation and reducing youth unemployment. Entrepreneurship achieves important functions that are related to product innovation, efficiency, competition and pricing for catalysing economic development. Through entrepreneurship, entrepreneurs initiate technological innovation, the establishment of new enterprises and production of new products which translate directly to

high levels of economic growth. Entrepreneurship is also viewed as a crucial mediator that transfers knowledge to the labour force through profit motivation and is a key determinant of sustainable economic growth. Klasen (2000) outlines that South Africa with nearly half of its population living in conditions of poverty caused by high unemployment rates, the economic realities of South Africa are harsh, though the promise of sustainable development remains bright. Drawing from Marshall and Keough (2004), by creating economic growth, South African entrepreneurs are proving to be at the heart of that promise and are a key weapon in the fight against poverty and unemployment. It is therefore essential for South Africa to be entrepreneurial and create jobs and business opportunities and raise the standard of living for the youth and society at large.

2.7 Global trends on agricultural entrepreneurship and youth employment

The study conducted by Yahya & Yahya (2018) revealed that the world of farming and agriculture across the globe has undergone tremendous changes and transformation through the impact of digital technology and the use of industrialised machinery, innovative technologies and sustainable farming practices. These changes have in a way also contributed to the current global crises we currently face in the demand and supply of agricultural produce (Uphoff, 2013). Most leaders in the world have been faced with the difficult task of implementing sustainable ways to improve agriculture in their home countries and this has suddenly created a renewed interest in developing strategies and policies towards the improvement of small-scale farmers across the globe (McMichael, 2011). Although there have been renewed efforts to revive the agricultural sector, limited and inadequate financial investments into the sector as well as external forces such as bad weather conditions and other natural causes have also meant that most small-scale farmers have not been able to reach the growth they desire in order to be sustainable (Hazell et al., 2007).

However, few gaps have been identified in the agriculture sector although the modern food retail sector, including fast food, is expanding, and offering employment opportunities (Shenoy et al., 2010). Universities are increasingly supporting agri-business incubation. One such example is the Center for Agricultural Policy and Agri-business Studies (CAPAS), Padjadjaran University, Indonesia, where graduate programmes combine formal training with support to agri-business incubation. Examples of such agri-business include organic stores, specialty coffee, specialised catering for health products, and some interest is expressed in bridging linkages between farmers and exporters (R. S. Natawidjaja, pers. comm., 21 March 2011).

Some studies such as the one conducted by Byerlee et al., (2009), have also found out that investing in agriculture was not doing enough to reduce poverty and generate employment, especially in the developing countries. The study indicates that such challenges were a result of poor farming or agriculture knowledge and lack of access to the world markets to sell the produce. Byerlee et al., (2009), also contends that if there is more investment in the agricultural sector, the majority of small-scale farmers would benefit greatly and would transform into commercial farmers.

Similar studies like that of Uphoff (ibid.), also pointed out that farming is an economic activity that can generate income, employment and high returns to the small-scale farmers if properly invested in. By increasing the returns, the value of the land rises which improves food security for the rural farmers and their families (ibid.). Uphoff, further argues that improving the absolute contribution to the food supply from small-scale agriculture is estimated to grow by 50 per cent by 2030, presenting new income-earning potential for up-coming small-scale farmers and viable investment opportunities for capital providers.

However, Mbagwu (2021) states that farmers in the small-scale farming sector the world over especially in African countries and other developing nations suffer from serious challenges of under-investment. In most parts of the world, there are stricter financial conditions attached to the lending process–usually through private banks and other government financial lending departments with subsidies that are difficult to observe (Vogel, 2009). This approach fell out of favour during the 1990s in the international policy climate of market liberalisation and is generally agreed to have caused serious inefficiencies, high costs, and constant failure to yield sufficient benefits to up-coming small-scale farmers (ibid.). Most of these structures and accompanying programmes have been dismantled, sometimes due to conditions imposed by the IMF (International Monetary Fund) bailouts.

2.7.1 Small scale agricultural entrepreneurship and youth employment in South Africa

According to Walker (2008) the South African agricultural sector underwent tumultuous times in the recent decade owing to the unequal distribution of land that saw the majority of farmers either being landless or facing eviction from the land they once owned for generations. The unequal distribution of land and the government's failure to find a solution to the on-going struggles has fuelled land grabs and violence, which has negatively affected the sector (Hall, Scoones & Tsikata, 2015). In the process, most farmers lost their valuable farming assets and a sizable amount of property to looting and vandalism (Hall, Scoones & Tsikata, 2015). The

government in turn also experienced a sharp decline in its agricultural exports to other countries and this has also affected South Africa's gross domestic product.

Kurukulasuriya & Rosenthal (2013) argued that compounding the challenges above is also the issue of flooding in some parts of the country and drought spells, which have affected most crops yielding to low production levels and a sharp decline in the profits expected from the sector. In this period, the majority of commercial farmers lost their valuable properties worth millions of rands, and the poor rural farmers were also badly affected. As a result, small-scale farmers have been left to their own devises, as the government could not provide the much-needed support. These farmers have struggled to cope with such calamities and many of them resorted to urban migration, which is also part of the focus of this study (Doe, 2015). To date, the support structures for the previously disadvantaged landless poor farmers from the rural areas have been dwindling to non-existing (Musa & Phillip, 2015), causing such farmers to miss out on other opportunities that the South African government has been introducing (Moloi, 2010 & Anyike, 2011).

Although the sector has had numerous challenges affecting most farmers, the South African government also created other intervention programmes and drought relief mechanisms to encourage economic growth through farming and agriculture. However, these solutions only benefited the well-established commercial farmers and not much was done to support the previously disadvantaged small-scale farmers who had never benefited from the government's agriculture policies (Chikazunga & Paradza 2012). Meanwhile, the government of the United States of America has been at the forefront in supporting its small-scale rural farmers who were previously disadvantaged and had no access to markets to sell their produce. The United States government and other European governments have focused much of their attention on planning and developing policies and strategies aimed at boosting the production levels of small-scale farmers.

Here in South Africa, undeveloped and under resourced rural areas make it very strenuous for the small-scale up-coming farmers to take part in the large-scale commercial markets that are governed and controlled by large scale-commercial farmers (Shackleton et al., 2007). Some of the constraints faced by the emerging small-scale farmers include but are not limited to lack of financial resources, lack of government subsidies to run their farms and sporadic rainfall in most rural areas. These challenges have caused, if not forced, many of the emerging farmers to give up farming altogether (Wynne & Lyne, 2003; Makura & Mokoena, 2001). Efforts by farmers to market their commodities are affected by poor infrastructure, insufficient property rights (Adrian et al., 2003), poor education levels, unattainable credit access, lack of

innovative production tools needed to increase yield of the commodity produced and poor entrepreneurial skills needed to make the farmers' efforts a success (Bie'nabe & Vermuelen, 2011).

A study conducted by the National Emergent Red Meat Producer's Organisation (NERPO) in 2004 pinpointed skills shortages within up-coming farmers who are a hindrance to growth of the agricultural sector. NERPO (2004) suggested that the new South African government had to commit to and improve its attempts in attracting young people into the agricultural industry. The study also pointed out that poor financial and social capital, as well as limited access to legal resources, were a major challenge for emerging small-scale farmers to change negative market factors individually.

As a result, small-scale emerging farmers continue to suffer within the given market from which their agricultural activities do not receive rewards (Makura *et al.,* 2001). The following section, section 2.3 seeks to further broaden our understanding and engagement with the topic by looking at the global trends in small-scale agricultural business on employment opportunities for the youth. It highlights key essential tools that are necessary to help develop the agricultural sector for youth empowerment and development by looking at other small-scale farmers to take up agriculture more seriously."

2.8 Challenges facing entrepreneurs

The farms that many young Africans know from childhood are small and worked with a low level of mechanisation. Holdings of one to two hectares predominate, with the hand hoe and machete as the most common implements (Nagayets, 2005). World Bank data from four countries show that land use, both owned and rented, increases with age, and that the average plot size even for older farmers often remains well under one-hectare. This pattern of land use is seen in areas of both land scarcity and abundance, although for different reasons (Brooks, Zorya, Gautam, & Goyal, 2013).

Brooks et al, (2013) states that where settlement is dense and land-scarce, as for example in Rwanda and Malawi, holdings per household and per worker are small and shrinking with population growth. Here, constraints on the availability of land determine the size of holdings. Investments in irrigation, application of purchased inputs and improved varieties, double and triple cropping, terracing, and other measures can increase the productivity of land and incomes. Clay, Reardon & Kangasniemi (1998) argues that with increased demand and lower

transport costs due to investments in roads and shorter distances to markets, the returns to intensification rise, and more such investments are taking place.

The study conducted by Brooks et al, (2013) revealed that the prevalence of smallholdings in areas of abundant land is less intuitively explicable. Much of Africa is still land abundant, and one would expect to see large farms with significant mechanical power. Farm operators with access to capital do work on large holdings. The high costs of machinery, the poor creditworthiness of small farmers, the limited outreach of the financial sector, and the indivisibility of many investments in mechanisation, however, exclude most smallholders from access to mechanical power. The result is a replication of farms limited by the size that a household can farm manually. Houssou, Kolavalli, Bobobee & Owusu (2013.) state that larger holdings are possible with animal traction, but tsetse and other animal diseases constrain the use of draft animals in parts of Southern and Eastern Africa where they would be most productive.

Ambiguities in translatability of land through purchase, sale, leasing, inheritance, assignment under traditional rules, and mortgage overlay population pressures and capital constraints (World Bank 2012b). Even if the land is abundant, when constraints to the operation of land markets raise the cost of accessing new land, young people reaching adulthood may simply farm a portion of the family's original holding rather than securing new allotments. Fragmentation of existing smallholdings can thus exist in environments where large tracts are available for outside investors.

When the factor endowments are such that small, labour-intensive farms are economically appropriate, such farms can be efficient and profitable. According to Larson *et al.,* (2012), recent evidence based on a geographically wide and heterogeneous set of data finds an inverse relationship between maize yield and farm size, supporting the premise that small farms are productive in the African context and that smallholders do not necessarily forgo economies of scale. Primary production of most commodities has not historically exhibited increasing returns to scale, and the benefits of aggregation in marketing and access to information can be achieved through participation in producers' voluntary organisations (Morris, Binswanger-Mkhize & Byerlee 2009).

Vanclay (2004) believes that the issue of desirable farm size, however, is an economic one and not a matter of principle or ideology. Where relevant costs of production are readily divisible, smallholders will do as well or better than others. Where costs are not divisible for whatever reason, smallholders will be at a disadvantage, but will still be very numerous. In the

latter case, programmes that facilitate adjustments in farm size or address the indivisible costs will be constructive. Even where small farms are demonstrated to be efficient, crowding more family labour onto them is not necessarily economically desirable (Brooks et al.,2013). Especially at the small end of the size distribution of farms, productivity growth requires opportunities for the exit of young workers from the farms of their birth simply because the income that one or two hectares can generate is rarely sufficient to pull all members of a household out of poverty.

Brooks et al, (2013) states that changes in the technology of production and increased differentiation of product quality on the demand side may be creating new indivisible costs in the production of some commodities, and hence may be contributing to factors influencing the evolution of farm size. Returns to managerial expertise increase as processors seek secure access to large quantities of raw materials of uniform quality. Similarly, more sophisticated management is required as urban consumers demand quality and traceability, and as changing weather patterns undermine the validity of traditional "rules of thumb" for the agricultural cycle. Young people are well suited to acquire and exercise managerial expertise and can do so in many ways, but the managerial acumen of an individual farmer is as indivisible as a tractor. Each creates economic pressures for amalgamation of very small farms into larger units and/or development of new networks of producers to share costs. Increased fluidity of land markets, in particular through land rentals, is thus essential for the creation of good opportunities for a new generation of young African farmers. In addition, farmers' organisations may need to innovate in the delivery of managerial services, an area in which they have not been active in the past (Shiferaw, Hellin & Muricho 2011).

According to Brooks et al, (2013) increases in farm size from the very small (two hectares and less) to mid-sized holdings (5-100 hectares) are often associated in other parts of the world with the displacement of labour. Indeed, concern has been raised that productivity growth in African agriculture could displace labour precisely when demography requires that labour be absorbed. Research conducted by Keovilignavong & Suhardiman (2020) revealed that the impact on employment will depend on the forces shaping the increase in farm size. If the land is available and the area is still expanding, increased farm size need not displace labour. If the expansion takes place on the already farmed area and is accompanied by a capital subsidy that reduces the cost of mechanisation, as was the case in the Brazilian development experience, then increases in farm size could lead to the displacement of labour."

Drawing from Brooks et al.,(2013) thus, the impact of change in farm size on employment is specific to the factor endowment in a given market and to the forces triggering the change.

Since mobility out of farming in Africa has been low, much of the land is now held by aging farmers despite the large cohort of potential new entrants. Constraints to the intergenerational transfer of land are very costly when land is scarce and young people have difficulty acquiring holdings to start farming on their own. In the absence of old-age pensions and with poorly developed rental markets, elderly farmers may retain control over holdings that would be more efficiently managed by younger, more innovative, energetic farmers.

Brooks et al, (2013) argued that when factor endowments and characteristics of technology and markets imply larger optimal farm sizes than what is observed, constraints on capital and land markets impose a high burden of inefficiency on rural people. Although smallholders may not have the skills or appetite for risk to manage as much as 100 hectares, many could probably handle five to ten hectares if they had access to machinery to work it, particularly if public investments were made in the infrastructure needed to allow more profitable farming. And the incentives for young people to remain in school and acquire basic numeracy and literacy skills would increase if intermediate-sized farms were among the options possible and were known to require such basic skills for a successful operation.

2.8.1 Lack of education and skills associated with Agri-Business

The rural areas are seriously disadvantaged, and most business failure relates strongly to a lack of managerial skills such as planning, financial skills, record keeping and poor credit record (Radipere & Van Scheers, 2007). Studies in the field of agri-business have identified the potential of small-scale rural farming sectors as key to contributing economically to the development of the rural livelihood of small-scale farmers (White, 2012). Most of these studies, seem to agree that the emerging small-scale rural farmers of South Africa have the potential to contribute to the economic growth of their rural economies. Such a potential points out the significant reduction of youth unemployment and job creation in the sector (Shackleton et al., 2007)."

However, the potential benefits of small-scale rural farming cannot be fully exploited as most farmers or the youth involved in such activities do not attend career fairs and market expos where ideas and market trends are shared. The majority of small-scale rural farmers are missing out on these programmes as a result of not participating and not contributing towards such events. They lack the necessary skills and knowledge because of poor education and lack of market information for their agricultural produce (Barrett et al., 2001). Barret et al., (2001), stated that small-scale rural farmers need to take part in market events and expos that

may help improve their livelihoods and chances of growing from small-scale farming to large-scale commercial farming.

Studies conducted by Khapayi & Celliers (2016) have also identified certain challenges that prevent small-scale rural farmers to transform into commercial farmers. Some of the challenges identified were low to poor educational levels, lack of farming skills on crop production and animal production. The majority of farmers also have poor management skills and lack of information on the latest market trends. Some of the farmers also lack the right access to big markets, which have a potential to improve their livelihoods, a larger percentage of these farmers sell their produce to informal markets that are unregulated by the government and have low market value. In the long term, they face serious challenges, which result in them abandoning agricultural activities and migrating to urban areas in search of more sustainable livelihoods in the form of employment (Davie, 2004).

Besides participating in low market value markets, a significant percentage of small-scale rural farmers have been affected by lack of access to markets closer to their farms Mgbenka, Mbah, & Ezeano (2016). Many of the farmers in the rural areas travel long distances to access the markets and this is a cause of discouragement especially to new farmers. Lack of support to gain access to close markets implies that these farmers have to travel long distances to the market with their produce on poorly developed roads (Pingali, 2005). Poor infrastructure and a lack of transportation has affected the quality of produce thus causing farmers' produce to be uneconomical or to lose quality (Pingali, 2005). Compounding to these challenges is the lack of current and up-to-date market information, owing to poor communication and support from the government's agricultural extension officers.

Most of the farmers in the rural areas rely on word-of-mouth, family and self-researched information on prices, which may be misleading and unreliable (Mtega & Bernard, 2013). If adequate market information was made available to these rural farmers, there is potential that it can boost their confidence and sales by establishing appropriate prices that are competitive with the markets. This will help the farmers to choose marketing channels that are capable of generating a good income and better profits for their produce. This information according to a study by Jari & Fraser (2009) and later by Mtega and Bernard (2013), also stated that this information helps the farmer choose marketing channels that can generate better profits. To substantiate this claim, Mtega & Bernard's (2013), study argued that farmers with poor and unreliable market information tend to make poor and misinformed decisions about which markets to participate in. Good and reliable market information can help the farmers improve their bargaining power.

The availability of information about market variables such as prices and products in high supply and high demand is important to the market performance of emerging farmers (Mtega & Bernard, 2013). Agri-business in particular and any other business in general, requires open-mindedness, a good grasp of market information and suitable conditions, as well project and management skills to improve the smooth running of the business (Khapayi & Celliers, 2016). All these requirements are achievable through good education. Lack of a good education creates vulnerability and high chances of victimisation (Vogel, 2009). Unless entrepreneurs are well equipped with technical and business skills they may not be able to overcome the problems they are confronted with at different levels of their business development."

2.8.2 Building agriculture skills for the labour market

A situation analysis of youth employment in Ghana and Senegal identified sectors with the highest employment potential (YEN and International Youth Foundation, 2009). For Ghana, these are agriculture, business process outsourcing, and banking and other financial services. For Senegal, these are construction, business process outsourcing, agriculture, and import-export and security services. The study provides a detailed analysis of the business sector needs and skills requirements for each sector. Such studies are essential guides to inform sector-based youth employment enabling policies and interventions. In the case of agriculture, the importance of entrepreneurial and business skills and marketing techniques were noted.

2.8.3 The need to combine life and rural skills including agriculture.

The work of FAO on Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools (JFFLS) is gaining momentum, primarily although not exclusively in Africa. It seeks to develop youth and combine life and agricultural skills. Projects for promoting employment opportunities and entrepreneurship for rural youth through the JFFLS and the creation of youth farmers' cooperatives are being taken forward in Gaza and the West Bank, Honduras, Kenya, and Uganda. Only one initiative of the Youth Employment Network for West Africa (YEN-WA), which is dedicated to promoting the involvement of business in programmes for youth employment, is focused specifically on agriculture. This is the Child Labor Alternatives through Sustainable Systems in Education in Cote d'Ivoire (YEN-WA, undated).

2.8.4 Financial services for more dynamic agriculture

Finance has been identified in many businesses as one of the factors determining the growth and survival of SMMEs in both developing and developed countries. Financial services are critical in enabling SMMEs to scale up operations, improve products and services and upgrade technology. It is observed that, finance is an important input in every entrepreneurial venture as it is critical for the smooth running of everyday operations (Botazzi & Hellman, 2010). In addition, access to funds and credit for smallholders has been a perennial problem and the subject of analysis for decades. This is because outside debt and equity financing for small firms has long been known to be expensive and difficult to obtain. In addition, banks and investors have generally been sceptical of the success potential of small firms due to information asymmetries which in turn result in high costs in terms of interest, ownership and control (Ebben, 2008).

Small farmers in Africa, like their counterparts elsewhere, work in risky environments that are expensive for financial institutions to serve. Traditional financial service providers such as banks and other financial service providers regard entrepreneurship ventures as high risk and the costs involved in assessing creditworthiness and making loans or investments can make it unprofitable (Foxcroft et al., 2002). A history of public intervention in credit markets has created expectations that defaults on agricultural loans will carry a penalty to the borrower. All of these challenges for the outreach of financial institutions to small farmers are relevant for young farmers and are compounded by the fact that young farmers have little experience.

Pagura and Kirsten (2006), argue that not everyone will be able to access credit, although many farmers can benefit from a wider array of financial services such as insurance and money transfer. Yet small farmers, particularly the young, need capital to adopt the technologies and secure the land and equipment that will allow them to become more commercially active (Brooks et al., 2013). Because of the importance of finance and the potential future client base, if the challenges can be overcome, banks and NGOs will continue to experiment with innovations that overcome the barriers and achieve sustainable outreach to large numbers of smallholders. A brief review of some of these new products and services follows. It should be noted that many of the innovations in rural finance discussed herein are still being tested and their performance and sustainability on a large scale are not yet known..

2.8.5 Access to credit

Brooks et al, (2013) states that allowing alternative forms of collateral (e.g., chattel mortgages, acceptance of warehouse receipts, future harvest, etc.) can help ease the credit market. The

OHADA8 Uniform Act on Secured Transactions, in effect in 17 SSA countries, as amended at the end of 2010 allows borrowers to use a wide range of assets as collateral, including warehouse receipts and movable property such as machinery, equipment, and receivables that remain in the hands of the debtor (AgriFin 2012). Even where the regulatory framework allows collateralisation, assets may not be attractive for a few reasons, and banking practices require time for adjustment. Leasing also offers young farmers some relief, as it requires either no collateral or less than what is typically required by loans.

According to Gashayie and Singh (2015), most rural leases are financial (as opposed to operating leases), whereby the price of the asset is amortised, and the lessee can purchase the asset at the end of the lease period for a small price. A notable example is DFCU Leasing in Uganda, which provided over US $4 million in farm equipment leases in 2002 for items such as rice hullers, dairy processing equipment, and maize-milling equipment Brooks et al., (2013). Balezentis, Ribasauskiene, Morkunas, Volkov, Streimikiene & Toma (2020) argued that the necessity of young farmers for access to both finance and information can be solved by linking agricultural credit to extension services, as has been done in India by BASIX Social Enterprise Group, a livelihood promotion institution. Initially established to provide micro-credit to the rural poor, BASIX now provides rural households with financial services and advice in managing crop and livestock enterprises. Almost 1,000 service providers work with more than 25,000 villages in India under the program. BASIX's research has shown that farmers prefer cost-saving and risk-reducing interventions to yield-enhancing ones that require more investment; thus, the combination of financial services and information or mentoring allows the financial institution to identify the products in greatest demand, e.g., savings, money transfer, and insurance, rather than credit."

2.8.6 Grants

Matching grants can be used to promote both employment and employability among young people. Many governments and development partners use matching grant schemes for a variety of purposes, including promotion of improved technologies, empowerment of farmers to hire service providers, strengthening of linkages with private firms through productive partnerships, and provision of rural infrastructure for common use (AgriFin 2012).

Grants carry well-known risks of diversion and elite capture, and the successful use of grants depends crucially on the design of programmes, with transparency on the rules, checks and balances in monitoring at the local level, and clear expectations regarding accounting and auditing (Brooks et al, 2013). The expectation and encouragement of savings should also be

a key feature. Although experience with grant programmes in Africa is widespread, little effort has been made yet to focus grant programmes specifically on the needs of young participants. In Sri Lanka, the Gemi Diriya program allocates a portion of its Livelihood Fund for the provision of one-time grants of US $46 to the US $92 for income generation to help clients start an economic activity without incurring the risk of a loan (World Bank 2007a). The Gemi Diriya program focuses on young people among its targeted groups. Currently, just over ten per cent of participants are destitute young people (World Bank updated).

2.8.7 Institutions and organisations

According to Siahaan (2020), a variety of actors offer financial services, including bank and non-bank financial institutions, insurers, and payment service providers. As commercial banks tend to have limited outreach in rural areas, alternative institutions such as self-help groups, savings and credit associations, and cooperatives have emerged to fill the gap and to address both credit risk (usually higher in the agriculture sector) and covariant risks specific to agriculture (e.g., weather, climate, pests, disease, etc.) (Siahaan, 2020).Community-based financial organisations have developed to serve primarily the rural unbanked poor, providing savings, borrowing, and other financial services (e.g., insurance). Two successful models include village savings and loan associations (VSLA) and self-help groups (SHG). VSLAs were first started in Niger in 1991 by CARE International and have since spread to 39 countries, mostly in Africa (Siahaan, 2020).

In a VSLA, members save on a regular basis, and money is lent out on terms agreed upon by the group. Savings and interest earned are distributed back to members on a predetermined, regular basis (e.g., once a year). SHGs are used widely in India; replication in Africa has potential, but efforts by NGOs to do so have had mixed success (Brooks et al., 2013). In an SHG, savings and interest are not distributed back to members but are left to grow. SHGs link with banks and form federations with other villages, allowing them to accumulate more capital for lending. SHGs in India rely on strong social dynamics among women within villages and social connections between villages for federation.

Studies conducted by McKague, Zietsma & Oliver (2015) revealed that the social structures in African villages have not been as conducive to the development of strong women's groups, and women in Africa have been less able than those in India to devote the time required to attend meetings, in part because the lower density of settlement requires them to travel long distances. Nonetheless, VSLAs and SHGs both hold potential for including young people and addressing their capital constraints, particularly if the groups offer mentoring and access to

information as well as finance. These instruments require good recordkeeping and some means of oversight to ensure repayment.

2.8.8 Government policies and programmes

Entrepreneurship is still not a distinct concept and the differences between SMME, and entrepreneurship policies are unclear, as such attempts to become a more entrepreneurial economy tend to be delayed Pittaway (2007). Though government has invested substantial resources into supporting small enterprises, access to these programmes is limited and most businesses are either unaware of or have not used any of the government's programmes and structures.

2.8.8.1 Land policies

Of the many aspects of land administration that require attention in Africa, the two that matter most to young entrants to the labour force are improved security of tenure and relaxation of controls on rental (Brooks et al., 2013). Redistribution of land and decentralisation of land administration, two other issues of current interest, also affect young people's ability to access land. More generally, high food prices and the resulting spike in demand for land add urgency to the challenges of improving land governance for all citizens and applying appropriate safeguards to protect the land rights of the poor. Demand for land has increased in an environment in which arrangements for governance are often weak. As a result, traditional users' rights may be overlooked or abused, consultation with communities about impending transactions limited, and transparency constrained (Institute of Development Studies, 2012).

According to the World Bank (2012b) sound land policies can safeguard the livelihoods of the very vulnerable by giving them access to land and income-earning opportunities through rental markets or redistribution of land. Accelerated land registration facilitates land rental markets, which make it easier for the poor to access land on rental terms. Land access for the poor can also be improved by redistributing underused and unused agricultural land to them. The same policies and measures that will help the poor access land as competition for it increases will also help young people. Programmes addressing access to land can include special provisions to assist young people, and several examples already under way are described below.

2.8.8.2 Reforms in land rental markets

Drawing from Brooks (2013), for the very poor, the landless, the young, and migrants, land rental is the gateway to agricultural employment and eventual land ownership. For those

pursuing pathway 1 (perhaps hoping to acquire additional land to scale up family holdings) and pathway 2, rental provides a workable approach to gain access to land. Worldwide evidence demonstrates that introduction of long-term leases and/or certification of land rights has increased land rental activity (e.g., in China, Vietnam, Ethiopia, the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, and Ethiopia), since people secure of their rights are more likely to offer temporary use to others. In turn, well-functioning land rental markets can facilitate labour mobility, increase efficiency by transferring land to more productive users, increase equality, and enhance structural transformation. Rental can be particularly helpful in easing the intergenerational transfer of land while still providing income to elderly owners (see Box 4). According to Deininger (2003), the most common restrictions on rental markets, such as ceilings on rental rates or prohibitions against absentee landownership, are often introduced in an effort to safeguard the interests of smallholders. Instead, they may lock land into inefficient patterns of use, greatly disadvantaging young potential users.

2.8.8.3 Redistribution of agricultural land

Brooks (2013), believes that programmes of redistribution can have a profound and positive impact on the poor. If operated at sufficient scale, they can change the income distribution and increase incentives and opportunities for investment by poor households. Poorly designed programmes can also transfer land to those poorly suited to farm it and choke off investment due to uncertainty about future redistribution. The success of programmes of redistribution thus depends critically upon objectives and design. As individuals in pathway 2 have the greatest need for access to new land, they will have the most to gain or lose from approaches to redistribution. Examples of approaches to land redistribution can be seen in South Africa and Malawi, and each has drawn on lessons from programmes in Brazil.

2.8.9 Physical infrastructure

Infrastructure is important to both growth and poverty alleviation to the extent that some people consider infrastructure to be at the top of the poverty alleviation agenda (Kitschelt & Wilkinson, 2007).

2.8.10 Access to markets

According to Boonzaaier, & Leipzig (2009), distant markets confine farmers to selling their farm products mainly to hawkers and within the district. With little opportunities open to them, they remain firmly embedded in the subsistence economy. Accessibility to proper marketing facilities could help towards better production planning, lower risk, and better use of resources.

Many agri-businesses are struggling because of poor business management, improper planning, limited access to information, and underdeveloped infrastructure. In addition, many businesses operate in the informal sector rather than in the formal sector level. Limited coordination amongst farmers and failure to fully utilise local logistics capacity also inhibit the district economic growth.

Ndlebe (2007) states that most agri-businesses are failing mainly due to improper planning , lack of access to information, undeveloped infrastructure, low level of skills due to low levels of education and lack of entrepreneurial culture.

2.11 Conclusion

This chapter presented a literature review highlighting some of the key issues in the field relating to the current topic under investigation. Literature has also shown that there are still gaps when it comes to the implementation of agricultural policies in small scale farming within South Africa's the rural areas. Poor education levels or lack of education on farming has also been found to be one of the major challenges that are affecting small scale farmers in the rural parts of South Africa. This research has shown that there is a need for identification of strategies that can be implemented to help improve the image of agriculture and such strategies include agriculture education in higher institutions to help improve the manner in which the youth perceive agriculture. This challenge causes secondary problems such as poor youth employment and the mass exodus of the youth from rural areas into urban areas. The next chapter of this research presents the research approach and methodology suitable for the current study under investigation. The research approach and methodology were based on the nature of the problem currently under investigation and the nature of questions that are guiding this research in the first section of this study. The research methodology and methods also considered the nature of data itself that is required to answer the main question and sub-questions.

CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

The previous chapter discussed an analysis of related literature on the role of agriculture entrepreneurship towards reducing poverty and unemployment in the rural areas. The chapter highlighted some of the major challenges and opportunities that affect both economically developed nations and those less economically developed nations.

This chapter discusses the research design, sample and sampling techniques, target population, data collection procedure and data processing and analysis. In addition, this chapter also discusses the steps taken to comply with ethical requirements of the study.

3.2 Data reliability and validity

According to Middleton (2023), concepts like validity and reliability are used to assess the quality of research. They demonstrate how effectively a methodology, method, or test measures something. Validity is concerned with a measure's correctness, whereas reliability is concerned with its consistency.

3.3 Research Philosophy

Research philosophy refers to a system of beliefs and assumptions about the development of knowledge. According to Thomasson (2014), these assumptions inevitably shape how one understands their research questions, the methods they use and how they interpret their findings. These include assumptions about human knowledge (epistemological assumptions), about the realities one encounters in research (ontological assumptions), and the extent and ways one's own values influence their research process (axiological assumptions).

3.3.1 Ontological position

The study of Al (2020) describes ontology as a philosophical position that enables the researcher to be aware of the nature of reality as far as how small-scale agri-business can contribute to youth employment in rural areas. Ontology studies the nature of human beings' existence as individuals, in society, and in the universe. From this perspective, the researcher sought to understand how the rural youth within South Africa's rural areas are unemployed and failing to utilize agriculture as an opportunity to generate employment for their livelihood (Burrell & Morgan, 1979). For instance, do these rural youth have access to land, financial capital, and other inputs to start rural farming to create jobs in their communities? Or are

external forces controlling their efforts to possess the land and start farming? Another ontological question could be, are the rural youth best understood as individuals? Or are they best understood as existing in a group social system? This study sought to understand how small-scale agri-business can contribute to youth employment in rural areas by examining some of the challenges and opportunities in the agricultural sector.

3.3.2 Epistemological position

Since the current study sought to understand how small-scale agri-business can contribute to youth employment in rural areas, the researcher studied the knowledge or process of knowing what their real perceptions are when it comes to agriculture and farming as well as employment generation. From this perspective, the researcher believed that knowledge on how small-scale agri-business can contribute to youth employment in rural areas by examining some of the challenges and opportunities available in the agricultural sector was out there somewhere waiting to be discovered.

In comparison, other researchers believe that people develop knowledge based on how they view the world and through their experiences. All knowledge is relative, a mere social construction as there is no universal or absolute truth. From an epistemological point of view, the researcher also asked questions like, “How do we know what we claim to know about how small-scale agri-business can contribute to youth employment in rural areas?”. Here the researcher sought to find the accepted knowledge and to address the facts according to that knowledge. In this way, the researcher was clearly able to define accepted knowledge about the field of her research (Burrell & Morgan,1979).

3.4 Research Approach

A mixed-research approach was used to tackle research questions and research problems originating from the study by using two different approaches to explore the perceptions of the government and the youth. Since a mixed-method approach involves the use of qualitative and quantitative approaches, mixing both strategies generated more credible and persuasive conclusions about the research problem. Thus, it was more than simply collecting and analysing both kinds of data; it was about the use of both approaches in tandem so that the overall strength of a study is greater than either qualitative or quantitative research (Creswell & Clark, 2007).

In this study, the distinction between qualitative and quantitative research was framed in terms of using words (qualitative) rather than numbers (quantitative) or using closed-ended questions (quantitative hypotheses) rather than open-ended questions (qualitative interview questions). A more complete way to view the gradations of differences between them is in the basic philosophical assumptions researchers bring to the study, the types of strategies used overall in the research (e.g., quantitative experiments or qualitative case studies), and the specific methods employed in conducting these strategies (e.g., collecting data quantitatively on instruments versus collecting qualitative data through observing a setting). With this background, it should prove helpful to view definitions of these three key terms as used in this research.

The nature of the research problem and the associated research questions formulated in Chapter 1 of this study, essentially drove the choice and methods that were used. A mixed method approach followed a sequential pattern comprising:

- Research aims which are directed at providing an-in-depth and interpreted understanding of social world of research participants.
- Samples that are small scale and deliberately selected on the basis of relevant criteria adopted by the researcher.
- Data collection methods which usually involve close contact between the researcher and the research participants.
- Detailed data constructed of rich and broad information.
- Open analysis which involves evolving concepts and ideas, which may produce detailed descriptions and classifications of data.
- Outputs which tend to focus on the interpretation of social meaning.

The use of a mixed-method research approach in this study was premised on the fact that not much is known about how small agri-business activities can provide youth employment in rural areas, therefore the need to identify small scale agri-business strategies that are suitable for youth employment in rural areas is important for South African economic development.

3.4.1 Qualitative research

Qualitative research is a process within the mixed-method research approach which the researcher used to probe and understand the meaning the youth or government officials attribute to the issue of rural entrepreneurship through agriculture or other social problems causing youth unemployment in the province. A qualitative research approach was adopted in the current study because it is more explorative and is reliant on the gathering of verbal,

behavioural, and observational information that can be interpreted in a subjective manner. Those who engage in this form of inquiry support a way of looking at research that honours an inductive style, a focus on individual meaning, and the importance of rendering the complexity of a situation, in order to understand and explain specific social phenomena (adapted from Creswell, 2007).

3.4.2 Quantitative research

Babbie's study (2010:24-25) stated that numeric data is quantitative methods that highlight numeric analysis of data collected through surveys, polls, and questionnaires. Quantitative research focuses mainly on the gathering of numeric data and generalising it across groups of people. Adopting a quantitative research approach to collect and gather numeric data in the form of questionnaires also means that the researcher can test objective theories by examining the relationship among variables within the study. These variables, in turn, can be measured, typically on instruments, so that numbered data can be analysed using statistical procedures (Creswell, 2008). Like qualitative researchers, those who engage in this form of inquiry have assumptions about testing theories deductively, building in protections against bias, controlling for alternative explanations, and being able to generalise and replicate the findings.

In this study, questionnaires were distributed to students to obtain data in numeric form. One of the main reasons for using this approach was to measure the problem and understand how small-scale agri-business can contribute to youth employment in rural areas. To achieve this, a detailed strategy as outlined in section 3.4 below highlights the correct strategy used to gather both numeric and narrative data on how small-scale agri-business can contribute to youth employment in rural areas.

3.5 Research Strategy and Design

3.5.1 Background

The study of Bryman and Bell (2022) once stated that "research design provides a framework for data collection and its analysis". Research design refers to the overall strategy that a researcher uses to integrate the different components of the study in a coherent manner, thereby ensuring the research problem is addressed logically and as unambiguously as possible. Kothari and Garg (2014) describe a research design as all the procedures selected by a researcher for studying a particular set of questions. Kothari and Garg (2014) stressed

that a research design should guide the researcher in collecting, analysing, and interpreting observed factors. In the study of Creswell (2009), the most common research designs are qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-method approaches. In this study, the researcher adopted a mixed method approach which consisted of a mixture of qualitative data and quantitative data as appropriate to the needs of the main research question and study needs. Both qualitative and quantitative research approaches were used to understand efforts of the Department of Agriculture in the Eastern Cape to propose youth entrepreneurial programmes through agriculture without focusing on specific concepts (Creswell & Creswell, 2017). This study, however, leans more towards a qualitative research approach to determine factors that influence smallholder farming entrepreneurship in the Eastern Cape province.

According to Bless, Higson, & Kagee (2006), this process links the empirical data to the original research questions and conclusions. This implies that before the researcher started on her data collection process, she needed to have a clear purpose for the research study and clear research questions. Adopting a mixed method approach assisted the researcher to provide answers to the question of who, what, where and when associated with the research problem and to describe what exists with respect to variables or conditions in a situation (Nachmias & Nachmias, 2008). Thus, an appropriate research approach was built around the research questions and aligned to the ultimate research purpose (Thomas, 2011:26).

There are various types of research strategies used in a qualitative study and a quantitative study. These strategies usually involve five major groups such as experiment, survey, historical, archival, and case study research strategies. Each of these strategies offers a different way of collecting and analysing data and has its own advantages and disadvantages. Since this study adopted a mixed-method approach, a case study was adopted to guide the process of understanding how small-scale agri-business can contribute to youth employment in rural areas (Saunders, Lewis, & Thornhill, 2009). The decision to adopt a case study technique was based mainly on the nature of the problem at hand in this study. The study was largely inductive, because a mixed-method approach was selected to guide the collection and analysis of data for the study (Saunders, Lewis, & Thornhill, 2009). Data were generated from primary sources, mainly questionnaires and interviews while secondary data was collected and gathered from published cases on small scale rural farming in South Africa.

3.5.2 Case study

The current study used a case study strategy in the form of a survey to empirically investigate the issue of South Africa's agricultural sector and its ability or lack thereof in promoting

commercialisation of small-scale farmers and youth employment in the rural areas such as the Eastern Cape (Robson, 2002). The question raised was how we understand the concept of small-scale agri-business and its impact in promoting and contributing to youth employment in nonurban areas of the republic of South Africa. The study focused on how small-scale agri-business can contribute to youth employment in rural areas within the Eastern Cape and the Western Cape provinces of South Africa. The study was conducted in the Eastern Cape Tsolo and Qumbu within Mhlontlo municipality. A total of 95 participants were predetermined of which ten (10) individual interviews and one(1) focus group of 15 participants were conducted and sixty (60) questionnaires were distributed in the Tsolo and Qumbu area. the majority of n=51 (63.75%) respondents in the study were female while n=29 (36.25%) were male. The ages of the participants to the study ranged from 19-47.

3.6 Target population and Research site

A population is a group of individuals, objects or items from which samples are taken for measurements (Mugenda,2011; Peck, Oslen & Devore, 2014:6). A target population consists of all members of a real or hypothesised set of subjects, people or events in which the researcher wishes to generalise the results of a study (Kothari & Garg,2014). In this study, the researcher targeted students, lecturers, government officials and smallholder farmers in Tsolo and Qumbu in the Eastern Cape province.

3.6.1 Research site

The district like many others in the province is characterised by underdevelopment, and a high unemployment rate. The strategies available to the researcher are dependent on the current aim of the study which is to understand how small-scale agri-business can contribute to youth employment in rural areas, and mitigate against youth unemployment, poverty, and crime. The quality of life and unemployment for the youth in Tsolo township is not predominated by poverty, but by high levels of deprivation, violence, and crime.

3.6.2 Sample and Sampling technique

“A study by Peck et al., (2014:6) stated that a sample is a sub-group of a population that is carefully chosen for study. For this study, members of the population mainly comprised of individuals, farmers groups, agricultural companies, movements, artifacts, institutions, or countries (Neuman, 2011:58). The sample size for this study was made up of 95 participants, obtained by using a margin of error formula. The targeted population for this study was

comprised of youth, small scale agricultural groups and colleges operating in the Tsolo area of the Eastern Cape. This study adopted a non-probability sampling approach in the form of purposive sampling because it is preferred for a mixed method since it uses both numeric and non-numerical modes of generalisation (Yin, 2011:89). The current study adopted purposive and random sampling as a more appropriate sampling technique for a mixed study since the aim was to have samples that yielded abundant data about the current research problem (Yin, 2011:88). The number of participants was as follows:

Interviews: 10 individual interviews and 1 focus group of 15 participants was conducted:

- 2 Managers in Tsolo and Qumbu (Eastern Cape)
- 4 students in Tsolo and Qumbu (Eastern Cape)
- 2 Up-coming small-scale farmers (Eastern Cape)
- 2 Government officials (Eastern Cape)
- 1 Focus group of 15 participants in Tsolo and Qumbu (Eastern Cape)

Questionnaires: 70 questionnaires were distributed to Tsolo and Qumbu rural area in the Eastern Cape:

- 10 Tsolo
- 10 Qumbu
- 5 Government groups in Qumbu
- 40 Students in the area of Tsolo and Qumbu
- 5 College officials in Tsolo

3.7 Data Collection Instruments

Data collection is the process in which primary data is collected from samples through questionnaires, interviews, and surveys so that the research question or problem can be answered to produce original research results (Bryman & Bell, 2015:14). Data collection is also known as the process of gathering information for relevant variables in a recognised systematic approach; it may be in the form of primary and secondary data, and it may contain words, numbers or pictures aiding the researcher in answering the research question.

In addition, data collection instruments adopted for this study centred on a qualitative approach to examine respondents' views, with interviews being the method of data collection on South Africa's small-scale agri-businesses and their potential to generate youth employment in the rural areas such as the Eastern Cape so as to understand how small-scale agri-business can

contribute to youth employment in these areas. To add to qualitative methods, quantitative data collection instruments were also used to investigate and measure attributes and a questionnaire was the method of data collection to answer “what” or “how” questions in relation to the methodology (Shaffer, 2013:7-9).

3.7.1 Individual Interviews

This study adopted an interview method to collect primary qualitative data on how small-scale agri-business can contribute to youth employment in rural areas. Interviews are defined by Kumar (2011:137) as “a verbal interaction between two individuals with the objective of obtaining relevant information for the purpose of research.” According to Kumar (2011:137), an interview can be an important instrument since it represents more control in the procedure. In this study, a semi-structured interview technique was used to extract maximum information based on the prior idea of the study questions. These interviews were used to save time and elaboration in analysis. The only disadvantage that the researcher encountered with interviews was their time-consuming nature in transcribing and analysing of data collected through this technique. Another challenge experienced during the study was the difficulty in generalising the actual findings obtained from selected stakeholders (technical company workers and non-technical personnel) which include two farm managers, four students, two emerging small-scale farmers, two government officials from the department of agriculture and a focus group of 15 participants comprised of college lecturers, farm managers, top management from the department of agriculture and government officials within the agricultural sector.

3.7.2 Focus group

A focus group interview is a structured group process that collects data through interaction to explore people’s thoughts, attitudes, behaviours, perceptions, and feelings to obtain detailed information about a topic determined by the researcher (Sherraden, 2001; Morgan, 2002; Hennik, 2007). For this study, the researcher implemented a focus group with five groups of participants such as college lecturers, farm managers, top management in the Eastern Cape department of agriculture, and government officials within the agriculture sector. This generated a variety of viewpoints and good participation (Sherraden, 2001).

During focus group sessions, the researcher was able to freely interact with participants in a more comfortable environment, which then permitted the participants to discuss a range of perceptions, ideas, opinions, and thoughts on the improvement and measures to be used in understanding how agri-business can be used in rural areas of South Africa to promote youth

employment and end unemployment and rural urban-migration patterns that have developed over time in the Eastern Cape and other rural provinces of South Africa. (Krueger& Casey, 2000). The discussion was well managed to allow inherent feelings on the subject to appear naturally (Sheridan, 2001). During focus group interviews, the researcher's role was critical to the success of the group discussion, thus the researcher ensured that each participant could participate (Finch & Lewis, 2003). An open communicating discussion was used by the researcher to use group procedures for motivation. Thus, the researcher aimed to allow as much relevant discussion as possible to be generated from within the group, while at the same time ensuring that the objectives of the research were met (Finch & Lewis, 2003).

In the focus group interviews recording the discussion is an important aspect, as this is done using a tape recorder or by taking notes (MacDonald & Headlam, 2009; Mack, Woodsong, MacQueen, Guest & Namey, 2005). In the study, the researcher ensured she obtained participants' permission to record the sessions. Social interaction within a group creates freer and more complex responses when there is communication, cooperation, freedom, and security of participants within the group (Sherraden, 2001).

Another merit of a focus group interview was its form of flexibility which allowed the researcher to probe for clarification on issues to do with mine worker's experiences and perceptions towards environmental risk in the mining sector which were covered in depth. The aim of probing was to clarify, to determine deeper meaning rather than accepting an answer at face value (Sherraden, 2001, Finch and Lewis, 2003). However, Mack et al (2005) warns that probing requires practical knowledge of the focus group to guide the research and its objectives. It also required patience and effective time management; hence the researcher mastered the focus group interview guides, arrived early so that the group discussion commenced and ended at the scheduled time. At the same time, the researcher managed time by directing the discussions to avoid discourse of irrelevant issues which might have wasted time.

3.7.3 Questionnaire

Questionnaires are vital tools that researchers can use to collect quantitative data in a study. Questionnaires are also ideal as data collection instruments as they are able to combine both quantitative and qualitative data items. As a data collection tool, questionnaires are mostly used for gathering data in survey research that contains both open-and-close-ended questions made available to the population, often from a wide geographical area. This is done to allow

the study participants to respond directly to the questionnaire without interacting with the investigator (Monette, Sullivan & De Jong,2011:164).

A questionnaire was chosen as the preferred data collection technique as it was reasonably quick to collect data from students and various stakeholders in the Eastern Cape rural district of Tsolo. The questionnaire was administered in two ways; some questionnaires were administered by handing them to the participants from the Eastern Cape selected small-scale farms while others were distributed electronically via Google forms. Questions regarding how agri-business can be used to promote rural entrepreneurship and curb rural youth unemployment as well as rural youth urban-migration were asked using open-and-closed-ended questions. The questionnaire was chosen as appropriate because it allowed the researcher to gain more information about the current phenomenon under study from a wider geographic location.

3.8 Data Analysis and coding

Data analysis is a process that allows the researcher to continuously gain a much deeper understanding of the issue under investigation and to refine the interpretation of data continually (Mazibuko, as cited in Masuku, 2011). Primary data collected using the above-mentioned techniques was analysed through the means of qualitative and quantitative data analysis in the form of thematic analysis as well as statistical analysis for quantitative data (Neuman, 2006). Both analytical methods allowed the researcher to analyse qualitative and quantitative data concurrently since the study was a mixed-method approach. Analysing the data this way allowed the research to validate collected data to increase its dependability and transferability. Both analytical techniques proved useful as they guided the researcher to answer the research questions that were posed.

In addition, data collected through interviews was analysed using excel spreadsheets to plot bar and pie charts between the respondents' responses. The above-mentioned charts made it possible to compare the ratio of differences and similarities, thus these responses were presented according to emerging themes while conveying the patterns found in these responses to draw the deeper meaning of the results. However, the researcher highlighted common underlying issues emerging from the interviews as well as the differences in experiences and meanings as expressed by respondents. Braun and Clarke (2006) prescribe six steps to carry out a thematic analysis as guidelines and will be used as prescriptive, linear, and inflexible rules when analysing data. Patton (1990) concurs with the above-mentioned

scholars by submitting that these guidelines can be used in the research question and the available data should be applied flexibly to fit the research questions. The researcher was guided by the following steps during the data analysis process:

- ***Familiarisation:*** The data was collected using all specified research techniques. During observations, data were generated and included all notes made in the field.
- ***The collected data were thematically coded:*** The research applied the first level of coding by identifying the apparent theme that emerged from the data collected along with the concrete ideas and the descriptive representation that was presented by the interviewees. Data were labelled (coded) and identified as outstanding ideas about the research questions. All relevant data for all the themes were gathered from the research questions.
- ***Identifying themes:*** The research examined the codes that were observed while relevant data extracts were sorted (combined or split) according to overarching themes which include youth employability, the labour market and youth skills development, with meanings that were significant to the research question.
- ***Reviewing themes:*** A deeper review of identified themes was evaluated and checked against the dataset to verify their relevance and validity.
- Evidence from the dataset was extracted to give legitimacy to each theme identified. Thereafter, themes were categorised into broad themes and sub-themes.
- Defining the themes and potential sub-themes within the data was finalised. The ongoing analysis was essential to further enhance the identified themes. The research applied themes with clear working definitions that briefly captured the essence of each theme.
- ***Finalisation:*** Finally, the research analysed the data into a contextualised piece of writing by using final theme examples that related to the themes, research questions, and the reviewed literature. The final theme has been extracted from the data to analyse in a way that convinces the reader of the importance of the analysis. The description of the themes was to portray analysed support by empirical evidence which addressed the framework of the research questions.

Lastly, the questionnaire was collected and values were assigned to each code on each questionnaire. The code was captured onto a computer to produce statistical data. A CPUT statistician helped the researcher to analyse the data of a software application (SPSS) used for statistical analysis. The results were presented in graphs and table formats, displaying numerical values which were interpreted qualitatively through the questionnaire completed by the participants."

3.8.1 Data coding

Data collected from the mixed method-approach using various data collection methods and techniques were also audio-recorded and transcribed, that is, the interview data was reproduced verbatim in writing. Thereafter it was subjected to qualitative content analysis where patterns and themes were inductively identified from the data (Wahyuni, 2012:76). Elo and Kyngäs (2008:109-111) called this process inductive content analysis. Inductive content analysis is the organisation of qualitative data. This procedure comprises open coding, category creation, and abstraction where open coding means notes and headings written into the text during several reading processes, and abstraction means compiling a general description from the research title through the generation of categories (Elo & Kyngäs, 2008:109-111).

3.9 Triangulation

Triangulation is a technique used by the researchers when a study involves a qualitative and a quantitative approach in a single investigation or rather in a mixed-method approach. In most cases, it is solely the responsibility of the researcher to adopt a specific approach or methodology that will promote a better understanding of the study under investigation (Neuman, 1994; Decrop, 1999). When faced with either a qualitative or quantitative dichotomy, m researchers are forced to select one paradigm over the other resulting in fewer or minimal chances of integrating qualitative and quantitative approaches in the study. However, as of recent, most researchers began to incorporate multiple methods approach to research while in the past most researchers tended to show their preferences for a quantitative approach (Bowen, 2003; Massey, 2003). In this regard, triangulation suggests that techniques are used in a parallel sense, thus providing flapping information, making it possible to check results from more than one viewpoint.

Bowen (2003) contends that a combination of quantitative and qualitative approaches should be viewed as an acceptable methodological approach for research occupying a variety of epistemological positions and concerning a wide range of substantive research areas in social sciences. Both Bowen (2003) and Massey (2003) report that the multiple methods approach represents a poly- vocal approach to research, where employing a range of methodological strategies means that the researcher does not necessarily privilege one particular view of the social world over another. In recognition of these and other such arguments, many social science researchers are increasingly rejecting the automatic association of particular methodologies with particular epistemologies (Bowen, 2003; Massey, 2003). Instead, they are

exhibiting flexibility in selecting the method or methods most appropriate to a particular research project.

Even though they are often presented as a dichotomy, quantitative and qualitative methods are not mutually exclusive, and they do indeed share common ground, for example overlapping in the processes of logical enquiry by which they are underpinned (Decrop, 1999). Indeed, some of the key arguments in favour of quantitative methods (for instance, arguments citing the objective nature of quantitative research as opposed to the subjective nature of qualitative research) have been increasingly discredited (Creswell, 1994; Decrop, 1999).

However, as Bowen argues, “in all research we move from ideas to data to ideas” — in other words, researchers continually move between research questions and evidence, regardless of the methods adopted to carry out the research (Bowen, 2003), Blaikie (1991), Easterby-Smith, Thorpe , & Jackson (2012) (1991), Creswell (1994), Decrop (1999), Bowen (2003), and Massey (2003) have emphasised the following benefits of combining qualitative and qualitative methods:

- While the quantitative design strives to control for bias so that facts can be understood in an objective way, the qualitative approach strives to understand the perspective of the programme stakeholders, looking to first-hand experience to provide meaningful data (Easterby-Smith *et al,* 1991).
- The accumulation of facts and causes of behaviour are addressed by the quantitative methodology, whereas the qualitative methodology addresses concerns with the changing and dynamic nature of reality (Bowen, 2003).
- Quantitative research designs strive to identify and isolate specific variables within the context of the study (seeking correlation, relationship, causality), while the qualitative design focuses on a holistic view of what is being studied (via documents, case histories, observations and interviews).
- Quantitative data was collected under controlled conditions in order to rule out the possibility that variables other than the one under study may account for the relationships identified, while qualitative data is collected within the context of its natural occurrence (Massey, 2003).

When methods are combined, the advantages of each methodology complements those of the other, making a stronger research design that will yield more valid and reliable findings (Decrop, 1999). The inadequacies of individual methods are minimised, and more threats to internal validity are recognised and addressed. In selecting an approach for the present study, the benefits and shortcomings of the various methodologies were considered, and an

integrated approach combining elements of qualitative and quantitative data was decided upon, thus making triangulation possible. Both qualitative and quantitative methods made it possible to gather the most needed data to address the research problem and to ensure that the objectives of the study were successfully met." The use of both qualitative and quantitative research methods aided in the formulation and validation of a hypothesis about the problems that young people experience when embarking into agri-business and farming as a way of life. The study could follow and observe participant behaviours to learn how and why such behaviors occur. The research methodologies assisted in understanding how rural youth see agriculture's role in fostering entrepreneurship in South Africa's rural areas.

3.10 Data quality assurance

To ensure data quality and credibility of findings, researchers often adopt a transferability and conformability approach to their data findings to ensure trustworthiness and legitimacy of data were applied in the study. Researchers argue that measuring the quality of collected data in any research undertaking is a sensible activity to guarantee that questions surrounding internal and external representativeness or validity, objectivity and reliability are answered (Guba & Lincoln, 1981).

The process of ensuring that the study or investigation evaluated what was intended is known as credibility or authenticity (Schurink, Fouché, & De Vos, 2011). To ensure that credibility and authenticity or rather reliability of data was adhered to, the researcher ensured that the study was conducted in line with the parameters and conditions set by the research design and during data collection. In addition, to increase the authenticity of the data for the study, the researcher also utilized the interview guides which were developed based on the research questions and the objectives of the research.

In terms of increasing credibility of the mixed-method research approach, the researcher also engaged in the persistent observation of research participants in their natural settings as well as prolonged engagement with these research participants in the form of peer debriefing and member checks (Onwuegbuzie & Leech, 2007:109). In furtherance to that, field notes (to capture missing information) and audio recordings (ensuring the capturing of all data adequately) were also applied to increase the credibility or the authenticity of the study. The researcher also carefully applied the five thematic analysis steps above to ensure the credibility of the collection and analysis of the data (Schurink *et al,* 2011). Triangulation was applied by collecting data from different sources (practitioners, principals, and parents) to

produce rich, credible data (Leedy & Ormrod, 2010). In addition, the participants were interviewed at different times and places in establishing the similarity of the issue (Polit & Beck, 2009).The interviews took place at TARDI (Tsolo Agricultural Rural Development Institute), Tsolo department of agriculture, Emazizini location, and Ntibane farms from Monday 10 July 2021 to Thursday 13 July 2021.

Another step taken to increase the credibility and authenticity of the data was through continued engagement or follow up meetings that were made with the interviewees in the study. Through these follow up discussions, interviewees were able to speak freely and were more open about the issue under investigation. Continued engagement with the interviewees, long after the interviews were completed, also allowed the interviewees to provide more detailed accurate and rich information which they did not provide during the face-to-face interviews (Polit & Beck, 2009). To avoid researcher bias in this process, the researcher also asked her research assistant to record some of these briefings and meetings separately so as to compare the findings during the data analysis stage as it followed the thematic analysis steps mentioned above (Mouton & Babbie, 2001). Some recordings were also carried out by accurately recording interviews using a recording device and being transcribed accurately.

Transferability for this study was achieved by ensuring that the set of questions as well as methods of collecting the data were consistent and in line with the aim and objectives of the research. This means that the researcher ensured that the methods and procedures followed to collect data can also be applied in a similar study in different contexts (Schurink *et al.,* 2011). Transferability offered the researcher the responsibility to ensure sufficient contextual information is given for the study so that any reader can decide if the described situation is similar to the one, they would like to transfer the findings to (Shenton, 2004). Krefting (1991) views conformability as the degree to which the results of the study are the product of the focus of the research, and not the researcher's biases (Krefting, 1991). In addition, it refers to what level the results of an investigation can be validated or supported by other researchers (Baxter & Eyles, 1997). Conformability for this study was also crucial in providing clarity to the concept of reflexivity, which is the awareness of the researcher's role in doing research, as well as the procedure and consequences of research (Haynes, 2012). Reflexivity also gave the researcher the ability to formulate an understanding of an individual's own cognitive world, especially the individual's influence as a researcher and that of participants. This concept was applied to appreciate that participants were the experts in the current study; thus, their expertise would help to attain the goal of the study (Auerbach & Silverstein, 2003)."

3.11 Ethical considerations

Ethics includes how researchers should behave in relation to the people with whom they interact during the research process (Simons, 2009:96). According to Myers (2009:45), ethical consideration is the application of moral principles in the research process. The study of Etherington (2007:599-615), further asserts that trust and respect should also be created in the process. These ethical principles enable the researcher to gain the trust and necessary conditions to gather valid data from cases.

The ethical issues that emerge in this study included confidentiality, privacy, anonymity, and voluntary informed consent (Kothari & Garg, 2011). To ensure confidentiality and privacy of the information given, the researcher ensured that the information given by the respondents was treated with utmost confidentiality. To ensure anonymity, the identity of the respondents was protected by using pseudonyms and numbers. The researcher conformed to the principle of informed consent by seeking permission from the participants before administering the questionnaires and carrying out the interviews. Participation in the study was voluntary, and participants were free to withdraw without any repercussions. This also excluded possible participants who could not give informed consent. The participants were not coerced to discuss sensitive topics, nor had the interview process generated arguments or potentially harmful procedures (e.g., drugs or other materials to be administered to participants). Finally, the study did not involve any materials or processes that could cause harm to the environment.

3.11.1 Ethics and Consent

Applicable ethical procedures allowed the researcher to follow certain values that reduce harm to the participants of this study (Hesse-Biber & Leavy, 2006). Invasive methods in terms of privacy, anonymity, or confidentiality, referring to keeping information, which is not intended for others, secret (Mouton & Babbie, 2001) was maintained. In this research, all the participants were informed about the nature and purpose of the study, and the fact that participation was voluntary (Babbie & Rubin, 2008; Rubin & Babbie, 2016). Participants were informed that they could withdraw from the study at any time and were not expected to answer any questions with which they did not feel comfortable, and that confidentiality and anonymity was maintained in the publication of the report and for any additional publications that might arise from it. The participants were not exposed to unnecessary physical or psychological harm. They were not subjected to unusual stress, embarrassment, or loss of self-esteem.

3.11.2 Confidentiality

Anonymity implies that the researcher or readers of the completed study should not be able to identify a particular participant's response, while confidentiality implies that a participant's response can be identified but his/her identity should not be known (Bhattacherjee, 2012:138). To protect the interests and identity of participants, two important constructs (anonymity and confidentiality) are used in social science/scientific research. Consequently, participants were assured that their identity will be kept confidential through the use of pseudonyms (i.e., pennames). It was also explained to participants that the requested information was required for academic purposes (master's thesis, articles, and conferences) and would not be used against them (although the information could be used by affected organisations and government sectors to advise on developmental strategies as the research seeks to inform decisions and policy).

3.12 Summary

This chapter provided a detailed view of the research approach and methodology as well as research methods that will be used for the collection and gathering of the data. In this current section of the study, the researcher was able to formulate the research design process, epistemological stance, philosophy, and the research approach to support the requirements of this study. In addition, the researcher also went into detail to discuss the case study design process and ethical considerations that must be adhered to in the study. This section of the research took into consideration all issues highlighted in the first chapter and all key issues that were identified in the literature so as to establish a well-researched agri-business strategy for the South African Government to assist in youth employment especially in the rural parts of South Africa such as in the Eastern Cape. The next chapter presents the findings and key ideas that were found in the field when the data were collected. This chapter presents all the findings in line with the key aims and objectives of this study while also answering the main research question and sub-questions. The findings presented in this chapter are necessary to guide the research activities that are involved with the study to keep it on track and finish timeously."

CHAPTER 4: DATA ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

The previous chapter discussed the research design, sample and sampling techniques, target population, data collection procedure and data processing and analysis. In addition, the chapter also discussed the steps taken to comply with ethical requirements of the study.

This chapter of the study discusses the analysis of data collected through interviews and questionnaires. The research questions and their responses from participants' interviews and questionnaires are presented in this section. This section also provides findings from the research results, which allowed the researcher to draw conclusions and to present some recommendations on how agri-business can contribute to youth employment in rural areas.

The Eastern Cape province where this study took place is the second largest province in the country by landmass. It occupies an area of 168 966 km2 with a total population of 6.6 million inhabitants. Most of the inhabitants (78.8%) residing in the Eastern Cape province identify as Xhosa. A total of 80 participants were predetermined of which ten (10) interviews were conducted and seventy (70) questionnaires were distributed in the Tsolo and Qumbu areas. Interviews and questionnaires were distributed as follows: 2 Managers in Tsolo and Qumbu; 4 students in Tsolo and Qumbu (Eastern Cape); 2 up-coming farmers (Eastern Cape); 2 Government officials (Eastern Cape) and seventy questionnaires (70) distributed in the above areas. Of the 10 interviews conducted, six (6) were recorded and fifty (50) questionnaires were usable.

The main purpose of this study was to establish how agri-business can contribute to youth employment in rural areas. The study also ascertained the impact of rural youth entrepreneurship programmes to establish how these programmes can be used to curb unemployment and urbanisation in the rural communities of South Africa, as well as to determine the support needed to effectively develop youth entrepreneurship programmes in the rural areas as mentioned in Chapter 1.

The findings from the research questionnaires and interviews discuss various themes that were developed during data analysis. These themes are further categorised into various sections. Part one focuses on the organisations involved in the research where the study was conducted while Part Two focuses on the population involved in the study. In Part Two, the focus is on farming activities in the Eastern Cape and the agricultural and entrepreneurial activities currently in place. The questionnaire itself was divided into sections, with Section A

collecting quantitative data on participants' biographical profiles and the rest of the questionnaire asking questions about education and agriculture.

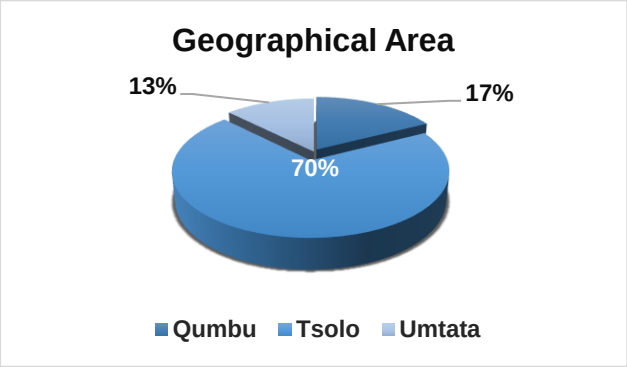

Figure 4.1.1*Geographical focus*

Figure 4.1.1 above shows that TARDI and WSU have been providing educational services for the residents empowering them with the right agricultural skills for entrepreneurial ventures. From the results, the respondents were equally selected from the Tsolo and Qumbu areas. Of the respondents, the majority n=6 from TARDI agriculture institute were actively involved in providing agriculture services. These results are similar to Poulton *et al.,* (2010) who indicated that government interventions and support structures can create viable environment for generating youth employment in the agricultural sector.

4.2 Part one: Organisations involved in the research

In this section, various organisations involved in the study and their demographics are presented. These organisations range from schools to government offices that were visited during the study. Schools such as TARDI and Walter Sisulu are but two of the organisations from which most of the participants were drawn.

4.2.1 Gender of the Respondents

The respondents' demographics according to gender are presented and depicted as follows: Of the n=80 participants, the majority of n=51 (63.75%) respondents in the study were female while n=29 (36.25%) were male from the study area in Tsolo Eastern Cape. Fig 4.1 below depicts the respondents' gender. This shows that the number of female respondents in the

study is slightly higher than that of male participants by a margin of 22. This is an indication of a steady increase in women in smallholder farming entrepreneurship in the Tsolo area.

Table 4:1: *Gender of Respondents*

Gender		Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Female	51	63.75	63.75
	Male	29	36.25	36.25
	Total	**80**	**100.0**	

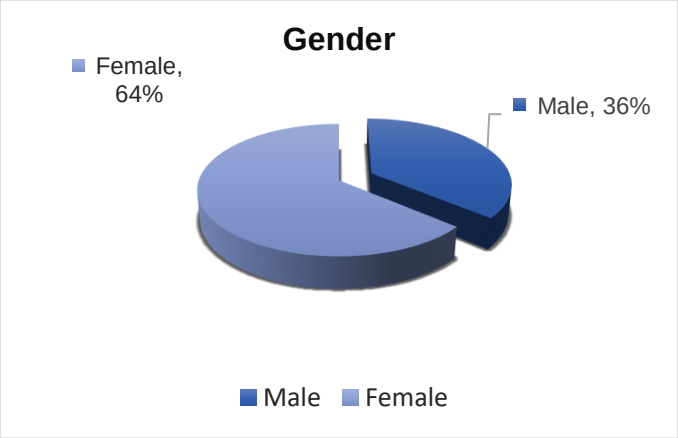

Figure 4:1:*Respondents' gender*

4.2.2 Professional Status

Table 4.2 below represents the respondents' demographics regarding professional status within the study area. Ninety-five (95) participants were selected. Of those respondents who participated in the study, n=60 (75%) were college students from TARDI and Walter Sisulu University. TARDI comprised n=56 (70%) of student participants, while Walter Sisulu University (WSU) had n=4 (5%). The figures indicate that more students were recruited from TARDI, a rural agriculture college in the area, while a minority were from WSU, one of the higher education institutions in the area.

The figures above also indicate an oversupply of labour in an economy that does not have enough employment opportunities, job creation and funding to sponsor entrepreneurial ideas. Other participants n=10 (12.5%) were the college staff from TARDI. There were few responses from Government and NGO officials; only n=4 (5%) of the total n=10 that were initially selected responded to the study. These figures indicate that most government officials; ten (10) in total who had indicated participation in the study withdrew their participation at the last minute forcing the researcher to improvise the initial data collection plan. It was later discovered that

Covid-19 and other technological challenges such as an inability to use ZOOM and Ms Teams due to network issues were primary reasons for why they withdrew. Their withdrawal did not have a significant impact on the study as the researcher was still in control of the data collection plan.

Table 4:2: *Respondents status*

Respondents		Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Active	University Students	60	75	75
	University Lecturers & Teaching assistants	10	12.5	87.5
	Government/NGO officials	10	12.5	100

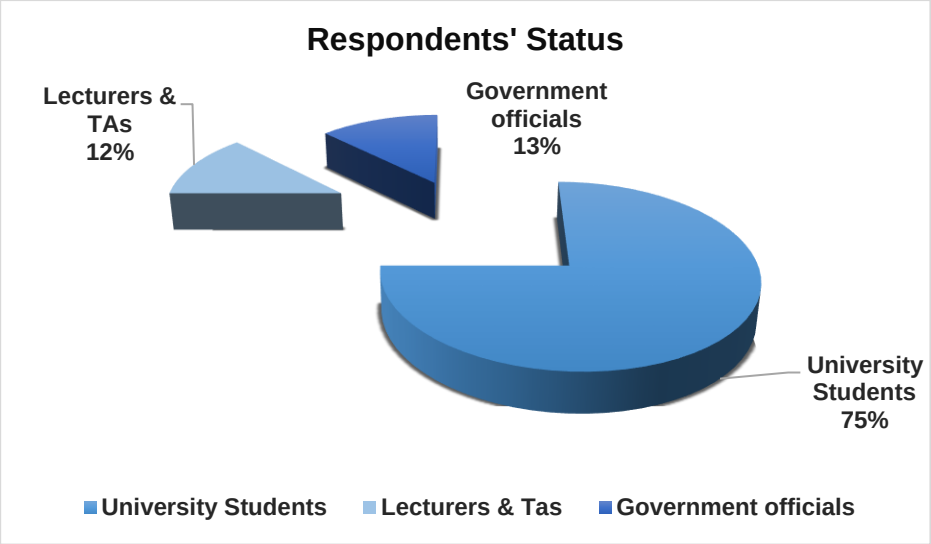

Figure 4:2:*Respondents' status*

4.2.3 Operational structure and key activities of the organisations

The operational structure and activities under the TARDI and WSU were represented as follows: The majority n=56 (70%) were agriculture related at TARDI while the minority n=4 (5%) at WSU were business related. Since most students n=56 (70%) were from TARDI, the results indicate that most of them were largely interested in agriculture with a few of them opting to study business related courses. Those studying at TARDI n=56 (70%) were mostly interested in obtaining national diplomas in agriculture upon completion of their studies.

The result contrast with those at WSU who were mostly interested in obtaining a bachelor's qualification with prospects of furthering their studies into a postgraduate degree. TARDI's key activities are in small-scale rural farming where the students get involved in the practical training of crop farming and animal husbandry. The results also indicated that TARDI is mainly focused on the farming and not on the business. While WSU on the other hand focuses on

business management and entrepreneurship courses. Their key focus is on theory development of business with a lack in the practical implementation of their business ideas. The difference in their focus also shows that both institutions' curriculum is designed around the organisation's key primary activities which is a disadvantage for students wanting to focus on both agriculture and business. In addition, the results in table 4.3 also shows that the common point regarding the purpose of TARDI and WSU higher education institutions in the area was to develop the local community by providing comprehensive educational services to the most vulnerable members of the community and to strive to improve the quality of education and literacy levels in the area. Other purposes were to train, educate and facilitate entrepreneurship projects to develop local business talent through social activities.

Table 4:3: Organisation structure and key activities

Are you aware of your college / universities' strategic objectives on youth employment in the agricultural sector?

Name of Organisation		Key activities	Courses on offer	Frequency	Percent
	TARDI	Agriculture	National diploma Certificate, Bachelor's degree	56	70
	WSU	Teaching & Learning	National diploma Certificate, Bachelor's degree, Postgraduate degree	4	5
	Total			**60**	**100.0**

In table 4.4 below, the results also indicate that both institutions have been undertaking various projects and initiatives aimed at reducing youth unemployment in rural areas. The results are similar to Uphoff (2013) who pointed out that farming is an economic activity that can generate income, employment, and high returns to small-scale farmers if properly invested in. In addition, Uphoff (2013) also highlighted that by 2030, small-scale agriculture's absolute contribution to the world's food supply is expected to increase by 50%, providing new opportunities for income generation for young small-scale farmers, as well as sound investment opportunities for financial institutions. The results in table 4.4 below show that the majority of respondents disagree on their institution's training policies on training. The majority of participants n=20 disagree that their institution's departments are doing enough to provide training to reduce unemployment. Table 4.4 below shows that 29.51% agree with the above statement, 11.48% strongly agree, 13.11% are unsure, 32.79% disagree and 11.48 percent vehemently disagree."

These results above are an indication of certain underlying challenges that cause these initiatives to fail during their implementation. These results are similar to Wynne and Lyne (2003) who indicated that farmers' attempts to market their products are primarily hampered by inadequate infrastructure, and insufficient property rights. The study of Bie'nabe and Vermeulen (2011) also indicated that low education levels, restricted access to credit, a lack of innovative production that is necessary to increase yields from produce, and a lack of entrepreneurial skills are major causes of agriculture entrepreneurial ventures failing in their five years of implementation. While most participants disagree, almost n=18 of the participants agreed in their institution's departments in providing agriculture training and entrepreneurship. These results are similar to the study of White (2012) who identified agriculture skills with the potential to contributing economically to the development of rural economies. As stated by Shackleton et al., (2007) such potential needs to be harnessed to produce a significant reduction of youth unemployment and stimulate job creation in the agriculture sector.

Table :4:4: *Key activities*

Do you believe the South African government is doing enough to provide employment opportunities for the youth?

		Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		1	1.6	1.6
	Agree	18	29.5	31.1
	Disagree	20	32.8	63.9
	Strongly agree	7	11.5	75.4
	Strongly disagree	7	11.5	86.9
	Undecided	8	13.1	100.0
	Total	**61**	**100.0**	

Currently, the South African agriculture department invests substantially in agriculture and depends on global labour markets to market agricultural goods from all zones, particularly those of young people. Most of these studies agree that the emerging small-scale rural farmers of South Africa have the potential to contribute to the economic growth of their rural economies (White, 2012).

4.2.4 Geographical focus

The results regarding the geographical area in which most learning takes place for provision of agriculture activities and entrepreneurial activities are depicted in table 4.5 and fig 4.3

below. Of the respondents shown, the majority of N=56 were from TARDI college of agriculture in Tsolo, while n=4 were from Walter Sisulu University (WSU) Eastern Cape province.

Table 4:5: *Geographical focus*

Area		Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid		2	3.3	3.3
	Qumbu	1	1.6	4.9
	Tsolo	56	91.8	96.7
	Umtata	2	3.3	100.0
	Total	**61**	**100.0**	

The data in the table above demonstrates that the majority of study participants were situated in the Tsolo region, where the Tsolo Agricultural Rural Development Institute (TARDI) is situated. The data shows that most of the youth in Tsolo region is affiliated with the college of agriculture (TARDI), where they are enrolled as students studying agriculture with the intention to engage in small scale agri-business to reduce unemployment and eradicate poverty within completion of their studies.

4.3 Part two: Unit of analysis

In this section participants' backgrounds and demographics are presented.

4.3.1 Gender

The respondents' demographics according to gender are depicted as follows: Of the n=80, participants, most of them n=51 (63.75%) respondents in the study were female while n=29 (36.25%) were male. Figure 4:4 below depicts the respondents' gender. The study result shows that females were more willing to participate than their male counterparts in the area where the research was conducted. This research result on gender can be related to Thomson and Conradie (2011:45), who stated that women's willingness to participate in community duties is their instinct to protect and secure acceptable levels of socio-economic activity which will secure the wellbeing of their families. The results above could also indicate a steady increase in women in smallholder farming entrepreneurship in the Tsolo area.

Table 4:6: *Gender of Respondents*

Gender		Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Female	51	63.75	63.75
	Male	29	36.25	36.25
	Total	**80**	**100.0**	

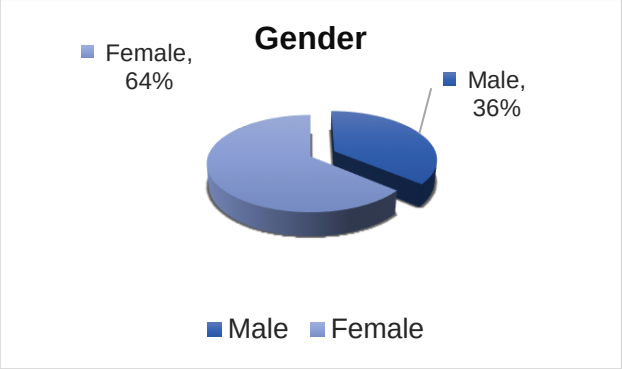

Figure 4:3: *Gender of Respondents*

4.3.2 Age of Respondents

The study's questionnaire had a category of age designed to describe respondents' age in years. The respondents were asked to choose their respective age categories which ranged from 19-47 years. The table below captures age categories from 19-47 years. The table shows that the majority of the respondents n=36 (60%) were in the 18-24 years of age category. The second highest category with the frequency of n=14 (23.33%) were between 25-35 years of age. The lowest frequency n=10 (16.66%) was captured in the 36-47 years age category. From these results it is seen that the majority of respondents were younger than 30 years of age. The result can be related to the Velokhaya Life Cycling Academy report which highlighted that 50% of South Africa's population are youth ranging between 20-30 years of age who are exposed to high levels of unemployment and poverty which turns them to crime and abuse.

In addition, the results in table 4.7 below are also an indication that the Eastern Cape's population is young and may be receptive to changes in their farming community.

Table 4:7: *Age of Respondents*

		Frequency	Percent	Accumulative Percentage
Valid	18-24 years old	36	60	60
	25-34 years old	14	23.33	62.3
	35-47 years old	10	16.66	96.7
	Total	**60**	**100.0**	

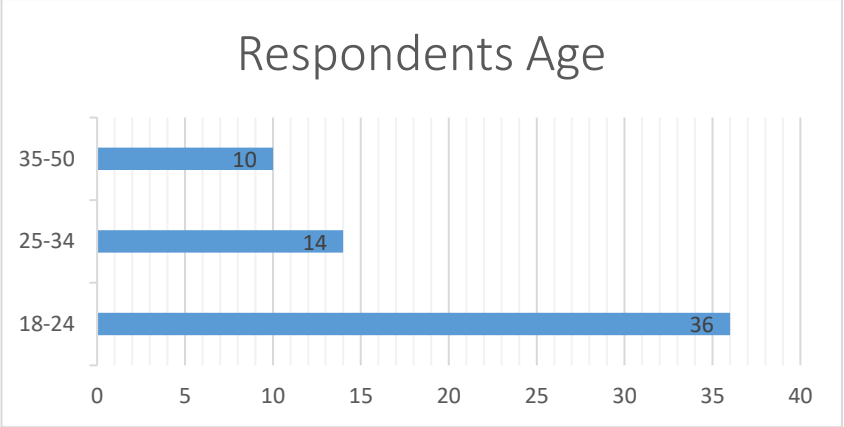

Figure 4:4: *Respondents Age*

4.3.3 Education Level of the Respondents

The following table/figure 4.8 below indicates the status of the respondents in the research. Of the respondents, the majority n=22 (36.66%) are students in their third (3rd) year of study, indicating that n=20 (33.33%) were in their (1st) year of study. The results indicate that most students are in their first and third year of study followed by n=10 (16.66%) students in second year (2nd). The fourth year (4th) stream was least represented with n=7 (11.66%), these results indicate an influx of students at 1st and 3rd year level. This result highlights the importance of these streams in a college or university system like TARDI and WSU. This result contrasts with Van der Geest's (2010) study which stated that there is lower student enrolment in rural areas compared to their urban counterparts. The results in this study show the desire of rural youth to attend and receive formal higher education training despite being in rural areas where resources are scant and scarce. This result also means that most of the respondents in the study area would require formal training to facilitate them to perceive and exploit available entrepreneurship opportunities in the area.

Table 4:8: *Respondents Occupation & Level of study*

		Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	National Diploma	1	1.6	1.6
	1st year	20	32.8	34.4
	2nd year	10	18.0	52.5
	3rd year	22	36.1	88.5
	4th year	7	11.5	100.0
	Total	**60**	**100.0**	

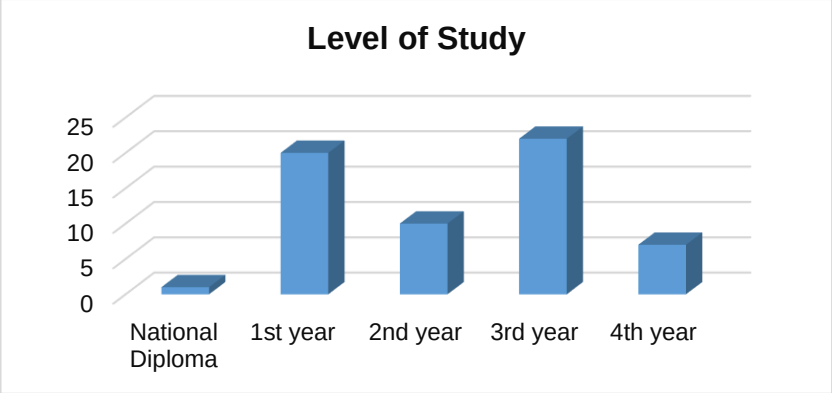

Figure 4:5:*Respondents' level of study*

4.3.4 Residential area participants live in and duration of living in the area

Figure 4.7 below shows the area in which the respondents live. The area of the research was selected and of the respondents, equal selection of n=40 (50%) against n=40 (50%) participants were living in Tsolo and Qumbu, respectively.

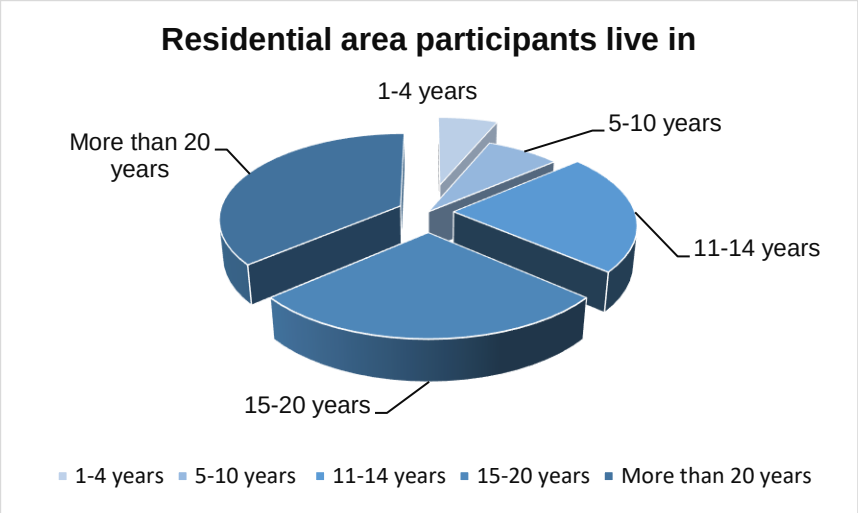

Figure 4:6:*Residential area participants live in*

Table 4.9 below shows that most of the participants n=29 (36.25%) responded that they had been living in the area for more than twenty (20) years, followed by n=22 (27.5%) who have been living in the area for fifteen (15) to twenty (20) years, n=18 (22.5%) have lived in the area for eleven (11) to fourteen (14) years. Of the respondents n=80, n=6 (7.5%) lived in their respective areas for five (5) to ten (10) years. While n=5 (6.25%) only lived in their respective area for only one (1) to four (4) years. The outcomes show that the mass of respondents n= 69 (86.25%) have lived in the area for an average of twenty-seven (27) years. The results also

show that most of the respondents were born and raised in the respective areas they lived in. The results show that respondents who had only lived in the area for one (1) to four (4) years were new to the areas they lived in because they were only there for study purposes. These respondents were not from these areas as they had their own permanent homes in different geographical locations outside of the location of the study.

Table 4:9: Duration of Participant staying in the area

		Frequency	Percent	Accumulative Percentage
Valid	1-4 years	5	6.25	6.25
	5-10 years	6	7.5	7.5
	11-14 years	18	22.5	22.5
	15-20 years	22	27.5	27.5
	More than 20 years	29	36.25	
	Total	**80**	**100.0**	

4.3.5 The respondents were asked if they knew of the strategic goals and objectives of their institution for youth employment in the agriculture industry

The research results in table 4.10 indicate that from the years respondents have been living in the area, most of them n=44 (55%) agreed that they were completely aware of the strategic goals set by their institution for promoting youth employment in the agriculture industry, while n= 10 (12.5%) completely disagreed with the statement above. From the respondents' answers, several respondents who were aware of programmes and initiatives by their institutions were involved in these activities. Their knowledge of the strategic goals and objectives of their institution for youth employment in the agriculture industry stemmed from the training and mentorship they had received previously. Most respondents clearly understood what their course entailed, and they were aware of their responsibilities when they applied for internships. While the majority of respondents n=44 (55%) knew what their courses were, n=3 (5%) were undecided about the strategic goals and objectives of their institution for youth employment in the agriculture industry primarily because they had only stayed in the area between one (1) to four (4) years. Those who knew of the strategic goals and objectives of their institution for youth employment in the agriculture industry had stayed in the area for a longer period between ten (10) to twenty plus (20+) years.

Table 4:10: *Knowledge of the institutional strategic goals and objectives for youth employment in the agriculture industry*

		Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	44	74.6	74.6
	Disagree	1	1.7	76.3
	Strongly agree	1	1.47	78
	Strongly Disagree	10	16.9	94.9
	Undecided	3	5.1	100.0
	Total	**59**	**100.0**	

4.3.6 Role Local Institutions play in area regarding entrepreneurship in the agricultural sector

Are you equipped with the right skills or knowledge to apply and look for jobs in the agricultural sector?

The research shows that n=44 (72.1%) respondents agreed that they were equipped with the right skills and knowledge to apply and look for jobs in the agricultural sector while n=10 (16.66%) disagreed. According to the majority of respondents n=44 (72.1%), the role played by their institutions is to provide training and the appropriate agricultural skills to become entrepreneurs. The role played by these institutions as the results indicate is to alleviate socio-economic challenges such as unemployment and crime by providing support to their communities through employment creation. The results in table 4.11 below also indicate that the minority of students n=24 (30%) are happy with the support from the institutions they are studying in. However, taking into consideration the lack of employment opportunities in the area and high unemployment, it is evident that the institutions are not doing enough to support its graduates to start their own small-scale agri-business as a means to generate jobs and reduce poverty. The results can be associated with the study of Bernstein (2004) and Li (2010) who pointed out that government bureaucracy and poor policy implementation are the cause for why rural youth lack an interest in farming and agriculture. Of the respondents n=20(25%) were undecided on the statement, “Are you equipped with the right skills or knowledge to apply and look for jobs in the agricultural sector?”. This result shows that some of the institutions’ policies fail to create robust job opportunities in the area and corrupt government officials make the situation challenging for them.

Table 4:11: *Local institution’s role in promoting entrepreneurship in the area*

		Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Agree	24	40.7	40.7
	Disagree	2	3.3	44
	Strongly agree	13	22.1	66.1
	Undecided	20	33.9	100.0
	Total	**59**	**100.0**	

4.3.7 Agricultural activities and initiatives in the area the research was conducted

The analysis of basic aims and objectives of institutions in the study area where the research was conducted (Tsolo and Qumbu) indicated that most activities in these areas are higher education training and general farming. Most respondents believed that their institutions are advancing socio-economic development in their area by promoting education opportunities for all. Participants were asked to align certain activities or initiatives their institutions were carrying out in Tsolo and Qumbu to provide employment opportunities for the youth.

Common answers from the majority of respondents n=24 (30%) show that education and agricultural training were popular activities and initiative the institutions were using to develop local communities. With the similarity of socio-economic challenges between Tsolo and Qumbu, further results from the analysis show that initiatives and activities of TARDI and WSU were aligned to promote literacy, agriculture, and entrepreneurship.

4.3.8 Socio-economic activities implemented to develop local communities

The most common result concerning whether TARDI or WSU's agriculture and entrepreneurial activities were well implemented to develop the local community were "No", with an n= 26 representing (20%). The results are similar to Ledwith's study that argued that the procedure used to develop the community requires the involvement of external and internal stakeholder's initiatives that can be implemented toward improving the lives of the local communities. The remaining n = (64) representing (80%) results were "Yes", affirming that some of TARDI or WSU's agriculture and entrepreneurial activities were well implemented to develop the local community. The respondents stated that they are aware of their organisation's strategic aims for increasing youth employment in agriculture. According to the comments of the respondents, the institutions performed an excellent job of executing entrepreneurial activities to build local communities in accordance with TARDI's major mission of generating graduates in the agricultural field with the goal of promoting local communities. The graduates are produced with the purpose of entering agricultural operations to create work opportunities and develop local communities.

When asked to identify what change or outcome TARDI and WSU initiatives brought to the Tsolo and Qumbu local communities, the result was mainly agricultural skills and entrepreneurial skills.

Table 4:12: *Socio-economic activities and economic development.*

		Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
	Yes	64	71.1	71.1
	No	26	29.9	100.0
	Total	**90**	**100.0**	

4.3.9 Specific measures proposed to promote agricultural entrepreneurship

The result on a question of whether there were any specific measures proposed to promote local development in the study area, the majority of respondents n= 64 (80%) responded "Yes" to specific measures proposed to promote local development by their institutions. The result indicates that it is evident that the lecturers at TARDI and WSU were doing their best to train and teach students about becoming agriculture entrepreneurs by providing them with the necessary skills to start their own businesses. Training is an important aspect in the agricultural sector as it dictates the quality of goods produced, the ability to enter markets, the means to advertise effectively and the quantities needing to be produced. The remaining respondents n= 26 (20%) responded "No" to specific measures proposed to promote local development by their institutions (see table 4.13) below that represents the respondents' views.

Table 4:13: *Measures to promote Agricultural Entrepreneurship*

		Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
	Yes	56	70	42.6
	No	24	30	100.0
	Total	**80**	**100.0**	

4.3.10 Access to Finance

On the issue of finance, the majority of respondents (70%) agreed that external finance is needed for the addition of more agricultural enterprises in the area. Fifteen percent (15%) of the respondents disagreed that financing is needed to discover new resources of farm inputs. On whether implementation of new farm practices require finance, Thirty percent (30%) of the respondents strongly agreed. Majority of the respondents (65%) agreed or strongly agreed that acquisition of new technologies in smallholder farms need financing with 25% generally disagreeing that acquisition of new technologies in the smallholder farms need financing.

4.3.11 Perceptions on Smallholder farming in terms of poverty alleviation and employment creation

All respondents in the study were asked to give their perception regarding their institution's and government's role in poverty and youth unemployment alleviation. A majority of

respondents with the average of n=68 (85%) was optimistic about their institution's role in creating employment and agriculture opportunities in their communities to eradicate poverty and unemployment. Results from n=12 (15%) respondents point of view revealed that they believed that their institutions and local government Social Enterprises (SE) were not doing enough regarding youth unemployment and poverty alleviation as most officials assigned to manage these projects were mismanaging the resources meant for community development.

Table 4:14: *Respondents Perceptions of Smallholder farming and Entrepreneurship*

		Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
	Yes	68	85	85
	No	12	15	100.0
	Total	**80**	**100.0**	

4.4 Results of the interviews

In addition to the above quantitative data collected from the study's participants, interviews were also conducted alongside questionnaires to provide complementary data to questionnaires. Interview questions were designed in line with the research questions to obtain more views concerning the impact of agriculture as an entrepreneurial activity to alleviate rural unemployment in the Eastern Cape province. These interviews were conducted with participants as shown in table 4.15 below.

Table 4:15: *Interview Participants*

Categories	Respondents
General Managers and up-coming farmers	2 + 2
Students	4
Government Officials	2
Total	**10**

4.4.1 General Questions about youth employment in the agriculture industry

What does youth entrepreneurship in agriculture mean to you?

The ten interviewees that responded to the question, "what does youth entrepreneurship in agriculture mean to you?" answered in different ways. It was said by four of the interviewees that it entailed providing more agricultural opportunities for the youth to curb youth unemployment in rural areas.

Asked if they were aware of strategic goals set by agricultural government institutions in their areas, some interviewees had this to say:

> *I am completely aware of the strategic goals set by my institution or university for promoting youth employment in the agriculture industry.*

Other interviewees had this to say:

> *There is an awareness of my college / universities' strategic objectives on youth employment in the agricultural sector.*

Further, some of the interviewees had this to say about strategic goals set by government institutions promoting youth entrepreneurship:

> *A fresh discussion on farming's character is required, with a focus on what is likely to transpire between present and past generations in the small-scale agricultural sector.*

The interviewees' responses above pointed directly to Li (2009&2010), who stated that government and organisations collaborating and creating equal employment opportunities for the youth should create suitable opportunities through appropriate policies to encourage more youth into farming business. According to Li (2009 & 2010), the government should provide more finance and funding into farming activities to encourage more youth participation in farming.

Do you understand what duties and responsibilities are required in your field of study when applying for internships?

The majority of six (6) interviewees' responses pointed to their awareness and understanding of the responsibilities required in the agriculture field to take up farming. For these interviewees there was a clear understanding of what small-scale farming entailed and what responsibilities were required of them during practical training or internship. The lecturers and some students who were interviewed all agreed that they knew what their responsibilities were before they applied for internship or practical training.

Most of the interviewees clearly understood what their course entailed, and they were aware of their responsibilities when they applied for internships. However, some student respondents indicated that they do not learn what was intended for them when they go for internships, due to a lack of the availability of resources. This result is tied to Uphoff (2013), where the author

justifies the need to align the curriculum with industry requirements to avert the current global crisis we are now facing in the demand for and supply of agricultural produce.

Are you equipped with the right skills or knowledge to apply and look for jobs in the agricultural sector?

Of the interviewees, three (3) indicated that as students they had been equipped with the necessary skills to apply and look for jobs in the agriculture sector. That indicates that most students were happy with the quality of education provided by the agricultural institution at which they were studying. However, taking into consideration the lack of employment in the area it is evident that the institution is not doing enough to support its graduates to start their own small-scale agri-business as a means to create jobs and alleviate poverty. Asked if their lecturers provide them with the requisite skills to start their own small-scale agri-businesses some interviewees responded as follows:

> *The lecturers have provided me with the right skills to start my own small-scale business*

Of the interviewees, (40.98%) agreed that the lecturers had provided them with the appropriate skills to start their own small-scale business while (22.95%) remained undecided. It is evident that the lecturers are doing their best to teach students about becoming Agripreneurs. However, due to the imposed government policies and lack of support regarding funding and land redistribution, that objective has become impossible to achieve. Most leaders in the world have the difficult task of implementing sustainable ways to improve agriculture in their home countries; and this has suddenly created a renewed interest in developing strategies and policies towards the improvement of small-scale farmers across the globe (McMichael, 2011).

Do you receive regular training on entrepreneurial skills to start your own business?

The researcher asked the respondents whether they receive regular training on entrepreneurial skills to start their own agriculture businesses and one of the interviewees had this to say:

> *I receive regular training on entrepreneurial skills to start my own business.*

Of the interviewees that were interviewed, close to (45.90%) agreed that they received regular training to start their own small-scale farming business while (21.31%) disagreed. This point is tied to the views of Uphoff (2013), who stated that governments should increase their

support to farming and food production to alleviate hunger and famine by 50% by 2030 through farming. According to the author, this move also presents new income earning potential for emerging farmers and a viable investment for capital providers.

Do you believe the South African government is doing enough to provide employment opportunities for the youth?

In responding to “Do you believe the South African government is doing enough to provide employment opportunities for the youth?”, the minority of the interviewees (37.70%) disagreed while (19.67%) agreed with the above statement. Most interviewees disagreed with the above statement because of the unequal distribution of land and the government’s failure to find a solution to ongoing struggles. This view ties in with the study of Hall & MacInnes et al (2015) which stated that government’s failure to find a solution to ongoing struggles in the agriculture sector has resulted in the sector being negatively affected.

In addition, the researcher also asked programme managers and lecturers at TARDI and WSU about how they communicate their employment opportunities and initiatives to the youth. One of interview respondents had this to say:

> *We communicate our training meetings with the students and local community members through the word of mouth. Through the word of mouth, we get a chance to speak to them about current and upcoming training events. Recently we have also been using social media to spread the message to the local community about what we are doing.*

Based on the excerpt above with one of the programme managers, it is evident that both institutions TARDI and WSU are viewed as important because of the work they are doing in their respective local communities. The programme manager made it clear through the interview that their focus is to provide adequate training and support to the students and local communities to start their own entrepreneurial initiatives. While the manager speaks highly of the projects and initiatives, they have been doing to promote entrepreneurship in the community, it seems these programmes are not reaching their targeted recipients. Youth unemployment and poverty remains one of the biggest challenges in the Tsolo and Qumbu communities.

4.4.2 General questions about institutional strategic goals and objectives for youth employment in the agriculture industry

Could you describe the projects you have been involved in to promote the strategic goals and objectives of your institution for youth employment in the agriculture industry?

To understand the project and initiatives respondents have been involved in to promote their institutional goals and objectives for youth employment in the agriculture industry, respondents were asked to describe their activities. Below are some of the responses from the interview:

> *As a higher education institution, we provide sufficient training and mentorship to the youth in our community. We provide this training to motivate and develop their agricultural and entrepreneurial skills for them to be independent and employable. Our mentorship and training activities also benefit the local community.*

The interview excerpt above indicates that most lecturers and programme managers at TARDI and Tsolo institutions were involved in setting up training for the youth in the area. The excerpt also indicates that most lecturers and programme managers that were interviewed were optimistic about their role and activities to promote their institutional goals and objectives for youth employment in the agriculture industry. Asked about their role as a government social enterprise entity (SE), one of the managers responsible for promoting agriculture and entrepreneurship in the area had this to say:

> *As a government institution, our sole goal is to provide funding and agricultural policies aimed at creating youth employment in the communities we serve.*

The except above from one of the programme managers representing one of the government social enterprises (SE) in the area of Tsolo and Qumbu where this study took place, indicates that the programme manager was enthusiastic and optimistic about their role as government agencies to promote agriculture and entrepreneurship. While this government official was proud of the role they play to promote youth entrepreneurship through agriculture, the official was not keen to elaborate much on how funding is distributed in the area and who gets to benefit from this funding. This view is similar to the studies of Bernstein (2004) and Li (2009), who both indicated that the reason why some government interventions fail in the rural areas is because of corruption in the tendering process and corrupt government officials. The study by Li (2009), also highlighted that the reason why there is so much unemployment in rural areas is also due to bureaucracy and policies which fail to promote job creation. Instead of creating equal employment opportunities through such policies, most of them have the

opposite effect as they destroy or discourage young people from taking an interest in farming. The upcoming farmers indicated that they do not get support from the government.

4.5 Discussion of results from interviews

The meaning of what agriculture and agri-business represent to the communities of Tsolo in the Eastern Cape is regarded as important because the majority of the community members believe in agriculture's potential to change their livelihoods. The participants expressed concern over the lack of funding and support from government and NGOs to embark them on agriculture activities. Some participants complained about the lack of access to markets to sell their produce and the lack of training to improve their agriculture knowledge. Others complained about corruption and corrupt government officials stealing funds meant for community development. The efforts between the government and local communities ought to be combined as synergy in exchanging ideas and working together might bring scales of change. Lack of follow ups when implementing ideas to benefit the community has been regarded as a major obstacle. The interviews show that in order to successfully develop sound policies, and models aimed at supporting and enhancing the transition of emerging farmers into commercial agricultural farming, a better understanding of the specific factors that restrict the development of emerging farmers is essential.

The interviews also showed that South Africa can no longer afford to risk failing its rural farmers as most of them show potential to successfully engage in large scale farming projects. It was also evident that there are still some gaps when it comes to the implementation of agricultural policies in small scale farming within the rural areas of South Africa. Poor education levels or lack of education on farming has also been found to be a major challenge that affects small scale farmers in the most rural parts of South Africa. Furthermore, this challenge causes secondary problems such as poor youth employment and the mass exodus of the youth from rural areas into urban areas. It was also evident in the interviews that most youth who anticipate venturing into farming after college have trouble transitioning to the commercial agricultural industry because they are still living in poverty (Frequin et al., 2012; Aliber & Hall, 2012). The failure of various government initiatives to integrate these youth on a large scale into the commercial agricultural system has heightened the demand for extensive comprehension and scientific knowledge of the difficulties that the youth encounter when they venture into agriculture entrepreneurship.

The respondents were also less enthusiastic about agriculture improving the quality of life in rural areas. Most responses from the study's participants pointed out that the local authorities should include more members of the local community in the planning and implementation process. Most study's participants felt alienated and ignored in critical decision-making processes and thus developed a negative perception of agriculture. Getting more support workers to reach more people and raising efforts in networking with stakeholders is evident for improving the quality of rural life through agriculture.

4.6 Interpretation of results

4.6.1 Government efforts for developing future farmers in rural areas

From the data collected through questionnaires and interviews, it was found that most of the respondents involved in the study were college students participating in agriculture at TARDI in the Eastern Cape. It was discovered that growing numbers of South Africans are moving away from agriculture as a source of income and improvement to their standard of living. While most respondents stated that they would turn to agriculture for an improved standard of living, small-scale agricultural enterprises have not received adequate promotion in South Africa, particularly in rural regions where the bulk of formerly disadvantaged people reside.

Findings from the questionnaires and interviews also showed that some of the youth participants in this study have a negative perception towards agriculture's ability to eradicate youth unemployment in the rural areas and the country at large.

4.6.2 Part two: Interpretation addressing research questions posed in chapter 1

As indicated in the findings above, women are the majority compared to their male counterparts. One could argue that women in most studies are easier to approach and always willing to help. This characteristic of willingness of women to help stems from their nurturing personality. This was highlighted in the study by Thomson and Conradie (2011:45) who indicated that women are important participators in community duties as it is their responsibility to secure acceptable levels of socio-economic issues to ensure the wellbeing of their families. The finding was that most of the women were single and were involved in higher education studies from TARDI and WSU. Levels of unemployment were found to be high among female participants of this study. It can be said that the majority of them struggle to access higher education because of a lack of funding and sponsorship from the government. The levels of

unemployment and lack of access to resources indicates how the rural Eastern Cape areas are deprived compared to other areas in South Africa.

It was evident that a small portion of the participants were involved in rural farming on a small-scale level. Some could speak positively of how farming has improved their socio-economic wellbeing although this cannot be said of the majority of participants who took part in the study. The negative perception of agriculture of some participants was mainly caused by the governments' lack of support when such support was requested. For some it was due to a lack of knowledge about the existence of government policies capable of improving their livelihoods, as a result of poor education and lack of training on small-scale agriculture as a viable economic activity. It was understood that some participants were involved in agriculture and were receiving some form of training although this cannot be said of the majority who complained about not receiving any kind of training, and neither were they aware of any government sponsored activities in small-scale farming.

It emerged that most participants were in favour of rural-urban migration where they complained about the frustration, they had in accessing farming resources. It was clear that rural-urban migration is on the rise as most participants had a negative view of rural life and farming. This was caused by poor communication on market information and being far from nearby markets to sell their produce. In the study it was evident that the majority of participants in the rural areas rely on word-of-mouth, family, and self-researched information on prices, which can be misleading and unreliable (Mtega & Bernard, 2013). If adequate market information is made available to these rural farmers, that will probably boost their confidence to set up appropriate prices that are compatible with the markets. This will help the farmers choose marketing channels that can generate a good income and better profits for their produce.

The research also found that most participants who took part in this study tend to make bad and uninformed judgments about which marketplaces to engage in when they plan to sell their produce. As Mtega and Bernard (2013) have indicated, farmers' bargaining position might be strengthened by providing accurate and trustworthy market information. From this study it was clear that the performance of emerging farmers on the food produce market depends on the availability of market knowledge of market factors like pricing and about items that are in high supply and high demand in the market (Mtega & Bernard, 2013). The study also found that agri-business and other business, in general, requires open-mindedness, a good grasp of market information and conditions; as well as project and management skills necessary to improve the smooth running of the business (Khapayi & Celliers, 2016). All these requirements

are achievable through good education. A lack of good education creates vulnerability and increases the chances of victimisation as evident from the presentation of the findings above.

The research also found that most farmers have poor management skills and a lack of information on the latest market trends. Some of the participants who were farmers themselves also lacked the necessary access to big markets, which have the potential to improve their livelihoods. It was found that most of them tend to sell their produce to informal markets that are unregulated by the government and have low market value. In the long term, they face serious challenges which threaten to force them to abandon their agricultural activities and migrate to urban areas in search of employment (Davie, 2004).

Besides, participating in low markets value, it was also found that a significant percentage of small-scale rural farmers have been affected the lack of access to markets close to their farms. Those farmers who took part in this study indicated that they travel far to access markets, and this causes discouragement specially to emerging farmers. Pingali (2005) said that lack of assistance for gaining access to nearby markets forces most farmers to transport their goods over long distances on poorly maintained roads. According to Pingali (2005), the quality of products is impacted by poor infrastructure and a lack of transportation, making farmer's produce unprofitable or causing poorer quality produce. It was also found that poor planning from the government and corrupt officials have caused significant challenges to those rural farmers who want to fully participate in small-scale agriculture. The impact of corrupt officials in agriculture and agri-business has been felt in rural areas. These corrupt activities carried out by politicians and policymakers have failed to promote job creation. Instead of creating equal employment opportunities through such policies, most have the opposite effect as they destroy or discourage young people from taking an interest in farming (Bernstein 2004; Li 2009, 2010). It also emerged that some of the participants who took part in the study lacked formal training and the requisite technical farming skills to successfully manage an agri-business. It was found that rural youth need to first get the necessary expertise in the industry from working in the field in which they choose to pursue entrepreneurship endeavours so that they will then be able to operate their own farms more profitably.

4.7 Summary

From the data gathered during the study’s questionnaires and interviews it is clear that the government is not doing enough to support the youth in the rural areas to venture into agriculture. They make it challenging for the youth to access the materials required to participate in farming unless they have qualifications to show that they can manage the resources. The challenge with this approach is that most students in the TARDI area are not

aware of any opportunities that exist in agriculture since they are not taught agriculture in their courses. The number of students registered for agriculture studies is slim to minimal given the negative publicity the sector has received over the years.

Contrary to this the South African government has been supporting small-scale farmers with farming inputs and extensive support. Some of the participants who were interviewed in this study did indicate that they were aware of their government's agriculture activities aimed at providing support for agriculture. Others also agreed that they had received some form of training where small-scale farming is concerned. The main challenge with these initiatives primarily lies in the lack of feedback and follow up visits by most officials deployed by the government in areas such as TARDI. The population could identify one or two government initiatives in their area by acknowledging that the government's activities do meet their area's agricultural demand.

However, most institutions do not include the general community members in most of these programmes within the community. Most of the findings also showed that most emerging youth farmers have trouble transitioning to the commercial agricultural industry because they are still living in poverty (Frequin et al., 2012). The failure of various government initiatives to integrate new farmers into the commercial agricultural system has heightened the demand for extensive comprehension and scientific knowledge of the difficulties that new farmers encounter Aliber & Hall, 2012. The next chapter will provide a summary of the study drawn on the key findings to provide conclusion and recommendations.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

The previous chapter narrated the analysis of data collected through interviews and questionnaires. The research questions and their responses from participant interviews and questionnaires were presented in the section. The chapter provided findings from the research results, which allowed the researcher to draw conclusions and to present some recommendations on how agri-business can contribute to youth employment in rural areas.

This chapter provides a summary of the study by drawing on key findings from the previous chapter on the findings to provide a conclusion and recommendations for the study. In this chapter, research questions and objectives that were guiding the study will be revisited based on the findings from the previous chapter.

5.2 Summary of the study

Chapter One provided a background to the research problem, statement of the research problem, and research questions and objectives. It ended with the purpose of the study and an outline which was followed by answers to the research questions, and the research problem.

Chapter Two provided a detailed literature review of agri-business and rural entrepreneurship on youth employment. It also provided a global view and a local perspective on the issue within the South African rural context.

Chapter Three focused on the research methodology and design for the research. It also covered case study data collection techniques and discussion on the approach for the research. Open and close-ended questions, qualitative and quantitative research methods were explained in detail and methods used to gather data were discussed in the chapter. The purpose of research design is to maximise valid answers to a research question. The researcher achieved this by using qualitative and quantitative approaches that were contextual to the phenomena of study. This led to an explanation and justification of research techniques used, sampling criteria and data analysis tools.

Quantitative data was captures in tables, while codes and themes were used to capture qualitative data. The researcher used recognised validity, reliability and triangulation methods to make sense of data and to ensure that analysed data was trustworthy. The chapter concluded with observing principles of anonymity to ensure that participants were ethically and morally protected throughout the study.

Chapter Four presented data collected through questionnaires and interviews. Findings from the questionnaires and interviews conducted with participants from TARDI and WSU in Tsolo and Qumbu respectively were presented in the chapter. The responses were captured and statistically analysed to provide a detailed picture of the youth unemployment and agriculture in the area. From the data that was gathered from questionnaires and interviews it is clear that some kind of training was provided to the youth and local communities on agriculture and entrepreneurship related matters.

Chapter Five concludes the research by attempting to answer the main research questions that were listed earlier and describes a set of results and recommendations consistent with the findings in the study.

5.2.1. Re-visiting research objectives

As the current study sought to explore the reasons behind the slow adoption of and lack of implementation of effective agricultural policies and strategies to improve poverty conditions and employment opportunities for the youth in South Africa's small-scale farming sector, the following main objectives were used to accomplish this aim. This study's objectives were to:

- Investigate how the youth from the most rural parts of the country perceive the role of agriculture in eradicating employment.
- Identify the ideal strategies and solutions that may be used to help improve the image of agriculture amongst the youth from the rural areas so that they may adopt a life-style of farming to earn a living.
- Explore the challenges that rural youth from the Eastern Cape Province are facing when they try to adopt farming as a life-style.
- Investigate the government's roles and responsibilities in the creation of youth employment in the rural parts of the country and how these roles can boost small-scale farming to commercial farming.

5.3 Limitations of the study

This study had a number of limitations such as Covid-19, financial and family challenges. Due to Covid-19, the researcher was forced to cancel some of the data collection plans she had originally arranged – this resulted in the researcher adjusting that data collection plan accordingly. Adjusting the data collection plan was a slow process as it had to go through the ethical process again at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology's ethical department in the Faculty of Business Management Sciences. Due to financial implications and limited resources, the researcher ended up covering a smaller section of the Tsolo and Qumbu area. In summary, the following aspects were identified as limitations of the study:

5.3.1 Limited sample size of students and lecturers

The study only focused on (n=60) students, (n=20) lecturers, programme managers, government officials and up-coming farmers from the TARDI and WSU institutions. This is a limitation because the sample excluded successful farmers who were beneficiaries of government programmes for entrepreneurship; administering questionnaires to a larger sample size could have yielded better results by bringing a different insight to the study.

5.3.2 Limited time to conduct quantitative survey

The impact of Covid-19, lack of time and lack of financial resources put a constraint on the study. Lack of time to conduct a detailed and thorough quantitative empirical study can be attributed to the impact of Covid-19. This limitation resulted in a different understanding of the entrepreneurship concepts and processes.

5.3.3 Limited geographical scope of the study

The study only focused on two institutions in municipal district of Tsolo and Qumbu in the Eastern Cape province. This is a limitation because the findings from this study cannot be taken as a general representation of agriculture entrepreneurship and entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector for the rest of South Africa.

5.4 Addressing the objectives

The research questions that guided the study were:

- What impact do agriculture and entrepreneurship have on youth employment in South Africa's rural areas?
- How can agriculture improve youth unemployment in rural areas?
- What challenges do the youth face in order to start their own agriculture entrepreneurial activities?

5.4.1 What impact does agriculture and entrepreneurship have on youth employment in South Africa's rural areas?

One of the important findings towards promoting small-scale farming among rural entrepreneurs indicated that South Africa like other countries in Africa is still behind in achieving its medium to long term millennium development goals (MDGs) and poverty eradication. This finding is similar to the study of Chivenge et al., (2015), who indicated that South Africa's challenge to meet all its millennium development goals was compounded by the inequalities of apartheid. This was evident throughout the study as South Africa's challenge to improve agriculture and promote youth development is also exacerbated by poor education systems in the rural areas and lack of strategies to improve the situation. Based on these findings from the research, the impact of agriculture to improve the quality of life in the rural areas was found lacking resulting in the majority of the study's participants developing a negative perception of agriculture.

In the case of Tsolo and Qumbu, local educational institutions and local government social enterprises also view agriculture as not doing much to alleviate poverty and youth unemployment in the areas because of the everyday challenges they face. In an effort to alleviate the problems and challenges appearing in the agricultural sector, the authorities at TARDI and WSU supported by the South African government devised strategies and policies aimed at up lifting and improving the livelihood of most rural youth. Although these policies and strategies were implemented with good intentions, these programmes were not realised due to poor coordination and maladministration. According to Olivier & Williams (2010) those entrusted to run and manage these programmes have not fully understood the importance of agriculture and how it can be used as a tool towards promoting small-scale farmers in the most remote rural parts of the country.

5.4.2 How can agricultural entrepreneurship improve youth unemployment in rural areas?

The most important answer resulting from this question was the need to improve human capital development programmes and to develop effective policies on agriculture and youth

employment, this according to most respondents from Tsolo and Qumbu. A number of respondents from Tsolo and Qumbu pointed out that the South African government needs to provide more training and to enact policies that are aimed at large scale rural development.

5.4.3 What challenges do local Institutions face to promote youth entrepreneurship activities through agriculture?

The important answers to this question was the necessity of human capital development programmes and policies, governing bodies and responsible stakeholders and financial investments in agriculture. These challenges are elaborated in section 5.4.3.1 to 5.4.3.3 below.

5.5 What possible solutions are required to improve agricultural entrepreneurship?

A youth employment inventory has been compiled to improve the evidence base for making public sector policy decisions about how to address the problem of youth employment. This includes evidence from 289 studies of interventions from 84 countries in all regions of the world (Betcherman *et al.,* 2007). While the largest number of interventions was in the OECD countries, the Latin America and Caribbean region also had good coverage. As the inventory does not differentiate according to the employment or occupational sector, the levels of support to interventions in the agriculture and agri-business sector cannot be gauged. In South Africa, the priority to create jobs for the rural youth has reached a high political profile and a comprehensive programme is now in place through the National Rural Youth Service Corps (NARYSC). This is supported through the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform to secure jobs for up to 10,000 rural youth, including jobs in the agriculture sector.

5.5.1 Human capital development programmes and policies

Human capital development programmes and policies were found to be underdeveloped in the study and as such most respondents highlighted this as a major challenge causing agricultural activities to fail in TARDI and WSU institutions. It was discovered that current education and training systems (curriculum & workforce) need to improve by combining Agricultural Education and Training (AET) suppliers and industry together. By not involving these sectors together, it was found that these problems significantly make it harder for people of low-income levels in the society to get good agricultural training.

Fundamental to this is the undesirable professional appearance of agriculture and the lack of talent and proficiency in the fields of agricultural production, agricultural engineering, and economic development in South Africa . The prevalence of problems and challenges cited above, calls for an urgent intervention by the South African government to improve the image and perception of agriculture by investing more time and resources in the form of human capital development programmes and policies. These programmes and policies should be aimed at improving the lives of those farmers who were disadvantaged by the previous government. Direct investments in the form of human capital development created by investing in schools, FET and agricultural colleges will help to promote South Africa's small-scale farming sector.

5.5.2 Governing bodies and responsible stakeholders

Alternatively, agricultural colleges and universities are encouraged to adopt and collaborate with schools in the rural areas and small towns in which farming can be regarded as part of the school curriculum. Such efforts are essential to boosting the small-scale farming sector, which hasn't grown well over the years as indicated by the findings in Chapter Four above. Publicising and advertising of such efforts is needed in these educational institutions as this can improve small-scale farmer's livelihoods and youth development programmes which then become an essential element of the rural development agenda.

Part of the strategy and solution in alleviating the challenges faced by the agricultural sector and other youth development schemes lies in the promotion and effective publicising of farming by means of an ideal business through profession days, seminars, and shows. Such efforts will help to change the public mindset and eliminate the reliance pattern of public allowances and dense dependence on handouts. This can only be successfully resolved once all the governing bodies and responsible stakeholders show a willingness and commitment to participate in agriculture activities.

5.5.3 Investing in agriculture

Some studies such as conducted by Byerlee *et al.,* (2009), found that investing in agriculture did not do enough to alleviate poverty and create employment especially in developing countries. Such challenges were a result of poor farming or agriculture knowledge and a lack

of access to the world markets to sell the produce. Byerlee *et al.,* (2009), contends that if there is more investment into the agricultural sector, most small-scale farmers would benefit greatly and would be able to transform into commercial farmers. Uphoff (2013), pointed out that farming is an economic activity that can generate income and offer employment and high returns to the small-scale farmers if properly invested in.

5.5.4 Building young entrepreneurs in the smallholder farming sector

However, as part of the Youth Employment Network for West Africa (YEN-WA) some multi-sectoral programmes do seek to build the capacity of young entrepreneurs in agri-business, including in fresh produce exports, quality assurance services and agro-processing (YEN-WA, undated). Of the relatively few agencies with a focus on small-scale agriculture and rural youth, the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), has shown some innovation in its programming. One example is the IADB loan entitled 'Innovative intervention models for the coffee sector' agreed to with the Government of Colombia (CO-L1009). The goal is to make Colombian coffee growers more competitive through the adoption of sustainable institutional intervention models to improve access to productive resources, particularly for young farmers, and to attract resources to Colombia's coffee-growing sector.

The project's intervention models consist of a series of attributes geared to young people with business aptitude, so as to allow them to resolve weaknesses in the factor markets and provide access to and secure resources for the coffee sector, thus increasing productivity. A second example is the IADB rural youth training programme in Paraguay (1997–2001 project TC-96- 03-16-0), which promoted the participation of young rural people in the labour and production markets specifically to hone the skills of those aged 15 to 30, and to improve the non-formal rural training that the training institutions offered, and to encourage a sharing of information about improved farming techniques and labour training opportunities in rural areas.

5.5.5 Formal education and skills training for the labour market

Improved educational outcomes are clearly needed to ensure that young people can acquire the educational qualifications needed to secure more productive employment. More detailed country-level studies are also needed to help inform the development of appropriate labour market policies and associated educational and skills requirements to reduce poverty among

young workers and to address the relative disadvantage of youth versus their adult counterparts in terms of the incidence of working poverty (ILO, 2010a). In India the Employment Generation and Marketing Mission (EGMM), a programme undertaken in Andhra Pradesh and supported by the World Bank, seeks to upgrade the skills of rural male and female youth, matching this training with specific gaps in the labour markets.

5.6 Conclusion

This study sought to determine the influence of small-scale agriculture in encouraging entrepreneurship in South Africa's rural communities. Based on a quantitative and qualitative examination of intervention mechanisms and solutions to promote economic growth through farming and agriculture, it is possible to infer that very little has been done to produce and promote small-scale farming activities in the most remote rural parts of the country as it was done in Europe and the United States of America (Chikazunga et al., 2012). The elimination of publicising sheets and government aid along with the de-ruling of the agricultural sector subsequent to the democratic transition in 1994 caused serious problems for commercial farmers, in particular to previously disadvantaged farmers (Batley & Larbi, 2004). By 1997, interest rate subsidies and export subsidies had ended completely and by late 1998 all marketing control boards were privatised with only the sugar industry continuing to have price support from the government (Chikazunga et al., 2012). Many emerging small-scale farmers faced and still continue to face difficulties in accessing formal agricultural markets (Khapayi & Celliers, 2016); this has caused most formal markets currently available in South Africa to lose interest in small-scale emerging farmers from the rural areas and small towns (ibid). Lack of market participation has been a common feature and a dilemma faced by the emerging farmers worldwide and is identified by Bie'nabe and Vermuelen (2011) as a constraint to emergent farmer development even in South Africa.

In South Africa, undeveloped and under resourced rural areas make it very difficult for small-scale emerging farmers to take part in the large-scale commercial markets that are governed and controlled by large scale-commercial farmers (Shackleton et al., 2007). Some of the constraints faced by emerging small-scale farmers include but are not limited to lack of financial resources, lack of government subsidies to run their farms, and sporadic rainfall in most rural areas. Facing these challenges has caused if not forced many of the emerging farmers to give up farming altogether (Wynne & Lyne, 2003) (Makura & Mokoena 2001). Attempts by farmers to market their commodities are mostly affected by poor infrastructure,

inadequate property rights (Wynne & Lyne, 2003), low education levels, lack of credit access, absence of innovative production tools needed in order to increase yield of commodity produced, and poor entrepreneurial skills needed to make the farmers' efforts a success (Bie'nabe & Vermuelen, 2011).

A study done by the National Emergent Red Meat Producer's Organisation (NERPO) in 2004 identified a significant number of skills' shortages among emerging farmers such as a major constraint of growth of the agricultural sector. NERPO (2004) proposed that the new South African government commit to and improve its efforts in attracting young people into the agricultural industry. The study also cited that poor financial and social capital as well as limited access to legal resources was a major challenge for emerging small-scale farmers to individually change negative market factors. As a result, small-scale emerging farmers continue to suffer in a cycle of operating within the given market from which their agricultural activities do not receive rewards (Makura et al., 2001).

5.7 Recommendations and further research

This study revealed that the need for effective policies and funding in the agriculture sector to ensure more rural students are educated on the role of agriculture in alleviating poverty and creating employment opportunities in rural areas is a prerequisite. To improve this, the following are recommended:

a. Further research is needed in the area of food supply from small-scale agriculture increasing the absolute contribution to food supply from small-scale agriculture is projected to rise by 50 per cent by 2030, presenting new income-earning potential for emerging small-scale farmers and viable investment opportunities for capital providers (Uphoff, 2013). However, the emerging small-scale farming sector the world over, especially in African countries and other developing nations, suffer from serious challenges of under investment. In most parts of the world, there are stricter financial conditions attached to the lending process –usually through private banks and other government financial lending departments with subsidies that are difficult to observe (Vogel, 2009). This approach fell out of favour during the 1990s in the international policy climate of market liberalisation and is generally agreed to have suffered from huge inefficiencies, high costs, and frequent failure to provide adequate benefits to emerging small-scale farmers (Vogel, 2009). Many such structures and accompanying programmes have been dismantled, sometimes as a result of conditions imposed by IMF (International Monetary Fund) bailouts.

b. South African government to educate rural farmers. Since gaining democracy in 1994, the South African government is struggling to educate rural farmers on the importance of agriculture to improve their livelihoods. This problem is further compounded by poor and inconsistent quality control checks as well as the lack of excellence of the workforce in farming institutes plus Further Education and Training (FET) institutions in the country (Crook & Sverrisson, 1999; Bagdonis *et al.,* 2009). At study by Crook and Sverrisson (1999), did prove that this in itself poses a serious threat to all efforts made by the government to improve the livelihood and means of production for the small-scale farmers."

Based on the limitations of the study, it is suggested that more research needs to be done to investigate how social enterprises (SEs) can be more involved in small-scale farming activities. It is also suggested that the sustainability of social enterprises in rural areas needs to be investigated.

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APPENDIX 1: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR FARMERS & CURRICULUM PLANNERS

Cape Peninsula University of Technology

AGRARIANISATION OR DE AGRARIANISATION? IMPLICATIONS TO YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN THE SMALL-SCALE AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS SECTOR IN SELECTED DISTRICT AREAS IN THE EASTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA.

The main purpose of this survey is to explore the reasons behind the slow adoption and/ lack of implementation of effective agricultural policies that encourage youth employment and entrepreneurship in South Africa's small-scale farming sector. This questionnaire will enable the researcher to complete her M-tech studies in Business Administration in the faculty of Business Management sciences at Cape Peninsula University of technology. Please complete the questionnaire as honestly as possible, as your input will contribute towards the assessment of the student and provide an opportunity for the student to develop an increased understanding of, and basic skills in research. Please read each question carefully. Record your response as prompted by the questionnaire. All responses will be treated as confidential and will be used for assessment and academic purposes only. Your participation is voluntary and will be highly appreciated. If you require feedback, please inform accordingly.

SECTION A: BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Please provide the following information regarding your position in your organisation, by placing an "X" in the appropriate block.

Institution name	WSU□ TARDI □
Institution Area	Qumbu □ Tsolo □
Age	_____
Sex	Sex □ M □ F □
Level of study	1st Year □ 2nd Year □ 3rd Year □4th □

SECTION B: COLLEGE AND GOVERNMENT EFFORTS IN CREATING YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN THE SMALL-SCALE AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS SECTOR ANALYSIS

1. What does the college aim to achieve by offering agricultural courses to students coming from the Eastern Cape region? [Need clarity on the college's aims, interviewee to explain]
2. As a farmer, do you think the college is doing enough to encourage students to engage in small scale agricultural activities? No because I have not seen any product of the college, however they do come and visit us as the farmers to help us with our livestock but within Mhlontlo Municipality we do not see any encouragement. They do not offer any career expos to make the public aware of them as a result most youth migrate to bigger cities and pursue other careers
3. As a farmer, do you think the quality of education offered by the college is structured to equip students to engage in small-scale agricultural farming? Yes, because they seemed interested to start their own small-scale farming as we engage with them time and again for their practical studies, however very few of them are coming from Mhlontlo municipality. Most of the students that are enrolled in the college are coming from far.
4. Have you ever worked with any students from the college of agriculture before? Do you think they are getting trained enough to be good farmers? Yes, but no they are not trained enough to be good farmers because their visits are very minimal. As a farmer you have to be hands on and in their case they are not.
5. What has been the students' success rate at your college over the years? Has it been growing or declining? How about this year? [Ask the interviewee to give more detail] the success of the students is very low and declining. The college is not as big as it was years back and it's getting worse and worse on a yearly basis to an extent that even the courses that they are offering are very minimal
6. Do you think government colleges and training centres are doing enough to educate the youth on agri-business opportunities? What is the student's success rate? No because such trainings are only offered for those that are already in the industry. No seminars that are held whereby the youth will be invited and a guest speaker explains the benefits of engaging into small scale farming
7. What does your farm specifically specialise in within the agricultural field? Is the government providing enough business equal opportunities to the youth [yes/no;

8. Interviewee to explain]. Both crop production and livestock 65/35. 65 live stock35 crop. Poultry, piggery, and sheep. I produce eggs, meat. Incubating eggs I do broilers and layers. I supply Albatross with pork. I look at the season and decide on what to do. Based on the time that I have been liaising with government officials. I managed to benefit on everything that has been offered to farmers.
9. If YES, why is the Eastern Cape region still underdeveloped agriculturally?
10. If NO, what can be done by the government to improve the quality of agriculture in Eastern Cape? Train people and raise awareness and do follow ups regularly. Ensure that everything goes accordingly.
11. Does the department of agriculture assist students in engage into small-scale agricultural farming?
12. Is your farm doing anything to liaise with the department of agriculture or any other government bodies to help students engage into small scale farming? Nothing much
13. Are students coming out of this college giving back to the community they come from? [Yes/no; interviewee to explain].No
14. Is there enough training and youth development opportunities available on your farm for the youth? Yes because I normally call the students to come and help with castrate, treat the livestock, post-mortem to identify death of a live stock
15. As a farmer, do you think the government is very active in creation of jobs for the youth? No

APPENDIX 2: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (DoA)

AGRARIANISATION OR DE AGRARIANISATION? IMPLICATIONS TO YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN THE SMALL-SCALE AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS SECTOR IN SELECTED DISTRICT AREAS IN THE EASTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA.

The main purpose of this survey is to explore the reasons behind the slow adoption and/ lack of implementation of effective agricultural policies that encourage youth employment and entrepreneurship in South Africa's small-scale farming sector.

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SECTION A: BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

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Institution Area	Qumbu □ Tsolo □
Age	_____
Sex	Sex □ M □ F □
Level of study	1st Year □ 2nd Year □ 3rd Year □4th □

SECTION B: GOVERNMENT EFFORTS IN CREATING YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN SMALL SCALE AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS SECTOR ANALYSIS

1. Is the South African government doing enough to provide employment opportunities for the youth? The government is not doing enough to provide job opportunities for the youth, example during this Covid-19 time the government is giving people money instead of big projects to provide job opportunities.

2. Has your department through the government put in place any measures to empower the unemployed youth in Eastern Cape? Yes, they have an SPU (special programme unit) programme that deals with women, youth, disabled. They provide trainings. Capacitate youth interested and introduce them to the programmes. Special programmes unit empowers youth regardless of gender, then women, old age and veterans.

3. Does the government provide subsidies to the unemployed youth to start their own businesses? [interviewer to probe the interviewee to explain what those activities are] Yes funding is available. The department has agency called CRDA (capital region development authority) and that assists on farmers funding with a loan

4. Does your department provide enough market information about agricultural produce? Yes. Some farmers are selling their produce to the supermarkets and they also supply schools for the nutrition programme as form of tenders.

5. Is there enough support from the government in the form of financial inputs and fertilisers to benefit agricultural colleges in the region? No they only deal with farmers. Provide them with fertilisers chemicals and seed. And they have to pay for mechanisation

6. Is your department and other government colleges and training centres doing enough to educate the youth on agri-business opportunities? Yes, they do. They have information days. They invite other stakeholders and take youth to the college for training. They are in partnership with green SA that helps farmers with inputs at a lesser price. They also train farmers.

7. Is the government providing enough business equal opportunities to the youth? No the government is not providing enough business opportunities to the youth.

8. Is your department doing enough to assist the youth with strategic objectives to market their agricultural products? Some but not all of them. They have suffix price app that helps them

9. Does your department offer enough training and youth development opportunities for the youth? Yes

10. Do you think employment and training opportunities offered by the government are useful in promoting entrepreneurship amongst the unemployed youth? Yes they try to do that a lot

11. Do you think the current government is active enough in creating jobs for the youth? Not enough but is trying

12. Does the training that you receive from the government form part of your department's training development plan to curb youth unemployment? Yes, it does because we are equipped to train unemployed youth to better themselves by engaging in agricultural activities. They have commodities. They have grain, poultry, veg, piggery, horticulture, animal fibre and livestock. Home industry.

APPENDIX 3: QUESTIONNAIRE GUIDE FOR STUDENTS & YOUTH

Cape Peninsula University of Technology

AGRARIANISATION OR DE AGRARIANISATION? IMPLICATIONS TO YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN THE SMALL-SCALE AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS SECTOR IN SELECTED DISTRICT AREAS IN THE EASTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA.

The main purpose of this survey is to explore the reasons behind the slow adoption and/ lack of implementation of effective agricultural policies that encourage youth employment and entrepreneurship in South Africa's small scale farming sector.

This questionnaire will enable the researcher to complete her M-tech studies in Business Administration in the faculty of Business Management sciences at Cape Peninsula University of technology. Please complete the questionnaire as honestly as possible, as your input will contribute towards the assessment of the student and provide an opportunity for the student to develop an increased understanding of, and basic skills in research.

Please read each question carefully. Record your response as prompted by the questionnaire. All responses will be treated as confidential and will be used for assessment and academic purposes only. Your participation is voluntary and will be highly appreciated. If you require feedback, please inform accordingly.

SECTION A: BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Please provide the following information regarding your position in your organisation, by placing an "X" in the appropriate block.

Institution name	WSU□TARDI □
Institution Area	Qumbu □ Tsolo □
Age	_____
Sex	Sex □ M □ F □
Level of study	1st Year □ 2nd Year □ 3rd Year □4th □

SECTION B: YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN SMALL-SCALE AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS SECTOR ANALYSIS

After reading each of the statements below, please indicate with an "X" the extent to which you agree / disagree with each in the appropriate block.

1: Strongly agree 2: Agree 3: Undecided 4: Disagree 5: Strongly disagree

Qstn No	Statement	Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1	I am fully aware of my college / Universities' strategic objectives on youth employment in the agricultural sector					
2	I have a clear understanding of what my course entails and responsibilities are when I go for internship					
3	As a student I have been equipped with the right skills or knowledge to apply and look for jobs in the agricultural sector					
4	My lecturers have provided me with the right skills to start my own small-scale business					
5	I receive regular training on entrepreneurial skills to start my own business					
6	I get regular support and feedback from the Government's Youth department on youth employment creation					
7	I receive regular training in order to perform my duties well.					

SECTION C: GOVERNMENT EFFORTS IN CREATING YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN SMALL-SCALE AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS SECTOR ANALYSIS

After reading each of the statements below, please indicate with an "X" the extent to which you agree with each in the appropriate block.

1: Strongly agree 2: Agree 3: Undecided 4: Disagree 5: Strongly disagree

Qstn No	Statement	Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1	The South African government is doing enough to provide employment opportunities for the youth.					
2	The government has put in place good measures to empower the unemployed youth.					
3	The government does provide youth subsidies to the unemployed youth to start their own businesses.					
4	There is enough market information about agricultural produce.					
5	There is enough support from the government in the form of financial inputs and fertilisers.					
6	Government colleges and training centres are doing enough to educate the youth on agri-business opportunities.					
7	The government is providing enough business equal opportunities to the youth.					
8	The government does assist the youth with strategic objectives to market their agricultural products.					
9	The Department assists employees to meet the Department's strategic objectives of youth employment.					
10	As a government employee, I have the right and necessary skills to perform my duties well.					
11	As employees, we are fairly rewarded in our efforts to curb youth unemployment in the province.					
12	There are sufficient training and youth development opportunities available in our department for the youth.					
13	Employment training opportunities offered by the government are useful in promoting entrepreneurship amongst the unemployed youth.					
14	The government is very active in job creation for the youth.					
15	The training we receive from the government, does form part of our department's training development plan to curb youth unemployment.					