

Socio-economic impact of land redistribution evolution in South Africa



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Objectives

- To evaluate the effect of the evolution (models) on beneficiary number, participation levels and operational styles.
- To evaluate the evolution effect on farm size and land use.

Background

- The Native Land Act of 1913 resulted in 1 570 ha / white person and 1.3 ha / black person.
- Since 1994 land restitution and redistribution were the two major tiers of the land reform (LR) programme targeting 24.7 million ha.
- Main aims of the LR programme are equity in land ownership (social), job creation, and increased food production (economic).
- Limited participation in and absence of economic contributions of land reform farms have been widely reported.
- Gaining understanding of social and economic effects of the land redistribution will contribute towards dealing with the challenges.

Methods

- Key features of the land redistribution programme evolution in Table 1.

Table 1: Models and sampling of farms

Model	Period	Beneficiaries	Status	Farms	% Sample size
SLAG	1995-2000	Households	Poorest	12	50
LRAD1+2	2001-2010	Individuals	Better-off	81	58
PLAS	2006-2012*	Individuals	Wealthy	23	30

* The programme is still continuing to date

- Data collection via interviews and key informants.

Results

- Trade-off between social and economic objectives (fig. 1).

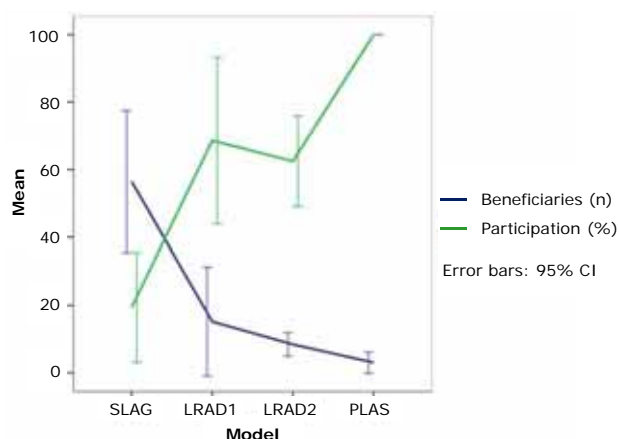


Figure 1. Evolution of beneficiary numbers and their level of participation per farm

Conclusions

- The evolution affected beneficiary numbers negatively and participation levels positively.
- Other factors had more influence on the land use than the evolution of the programme.

- The programme objective of collective farming was effective in more than 50% of the farms (fig. 2).

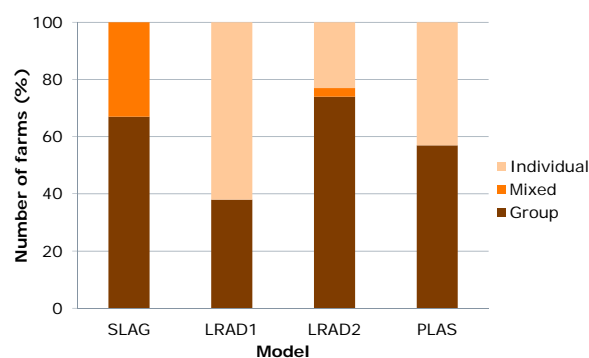


Figure 2. Evolution of farm operational styles

- Livestock production used more land than crop cultivation (fig. 3).

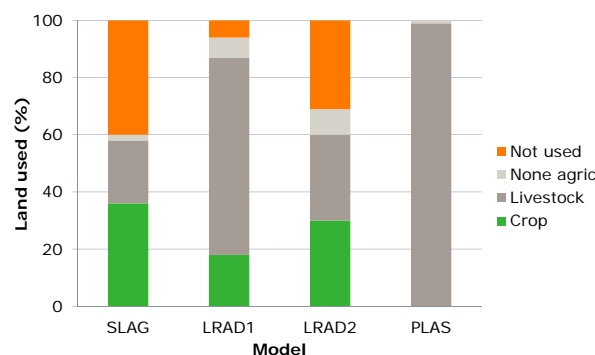


Figure 3. Evolution of average land use per farm

Discussion

- Evolution of the programme was influenced by national priorities, hence the opposite effects on beneficiary numbers and involvement.
- Operational style was affected by programme design, previous land ownership and previous land users.
- Programme design, type of land being reformed and agricultural sector developments influenced land use.

Future work

To gain more understanding on reformed farms there is a need to:

- Understand the livelihood strategies of the involved beneficiaries,
- Characterise the farming systems existing in reformed farms.