

Farmer register pilot study

– statistical report –

2009



agriculture,
forestry & fisheries

Department:
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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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INTRODUCTION

This report contains the statistical results of the Farmer Register Pilot Project that has been undertaken in Limpopo Province, Capricorn District during 2008. The primary purpose of this pilot study was to test the logistics of a project of this nature and collect statistical information prior to a larger study using the Farmer Register Questionnaire, in order to improve the efficiency of running such a project. A further aim was to establish whether farmers are able to provide the statistical information needed for the Farmer Register. This pilot project was focusing particularly on small-scale, communal and subsistence agriculture, although a number of commercial farmers also participated.

The main aim of the larger study, i.e. the Farmer Register, is to establish up-to-date statistics of all agricultural producers in South Africa. The register will enable the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) and other institutions to have accurate statistics of both existing commercial and emerging agricultural producers in the country.

The Farmer Register is expected to contribute to informed policy development and improved planning, decision making and service delivery by the DAFF and the entire agricultural sector.

The following benefits to the farmer are foreseen, to name but a few:

- Improved communication with farmers in specific areas—information on outbreaks of diseases, measures that can be taken, existing opportunities etc.;
- Collection of statistics directly from producers so as to reduce uncertainty about accuracy in agricultural statistics;
- Improved planning of resources needed for agricultural support programmes and services for the development of farmers; and
- Delivery of the right services to the right people (government agricultural support services).

The statistics that can be found in the Farmer Register, amongst others, include:

- The location of the farm in terms of Global Positioning Systems (GPS) coordinates;
- Ownership information;
- Demographic information;
- Employment information;
- Information on the farming activities of each farm;
- Production quantities; and
- Information about farmers' participation in agricultural support programmes.

This report results from a joint collaboration between the Limpopo Department of Agriculture, Capricorn District Municipalities and the DAFF. The DAFF wishes to express its appreciation to the people involved for their assistance and cooperation.

METHODS AND EXPLANATORY NOTES

Area surveyed/covered: Initially this Farmer Register Pilot Project intended to cover the entire Limpopo Province, however, because of time and budgetary constraints, only Capricorn District was eventually covered.

Scope: Information was obtained from a sample of 799 farmers who worked on their own and/or rented farms or who farmed on communal land.

Statistical unit: The statistical unit for the collection of information was a farming unit. The number of farming units does not represent the number of farmers, as a specific farmer can operate in more than one farming unit and more than one farmer can be involved with a specific farming unit.

Farming unit: A farming unit means any unit on which one or more of the following farming operations are carried out:

- The cultivation in the open air or under cover of field crops, fruit, grapes, nuts, seed bulbs, vegetable plants or flowers;
- Operation of a tea, coffee or sugar plantation;
- The breeding of livestock, poultry, game or other animals, including fresh-water fish, furred animals and trade in livestock; and/or
- Production of milk, wool, fur, eggs or honey.

Farmer: An individual, partnership, close corporation, company or other enterprise that operates a farming unit for his/her own account or the manager, foreman or other person to whom the control of the farming unit was entrusted.

Commercial farmers: Farmers who produce agricultural products intended almost exclusively for the market. The commercial farmers earn ongoing and primary revenue from their farming businesses, which forms the major source of income for the family. They have access to the technical, financial and managerial resources to reach the global market potential.

Subsistence farmers: These are mainly household farmers in remote rural areas, who produce mainly for household consumption and are producing very little if anything, for the market. They also form part of the category that government is mainly targeting in terms of policy on developing Black South African farmers (e.g. AgriBEE, LRAD, Mafisa and CASP) into fully functioning farm businesses or commercial farmers.

Communal farmer: A farmer who farms within his/her community or village, either as an individual or in a group, on land owned by the community and either has the potential to develop into commercial farming business or is already functioning as a business. He/she also uses his/her produce to sustain himself/herself and his/her family and is also within the targeted groups of government development programmes.

Business classification: According to the National Small Business Amendment Bill 2003, an agricultural business is classified in the following manner, based on the annual turnover of the enterprise:

- Medium—less than R5 million
- Small—less than R3 million
- Very small—less than R500 000
- Micro—less than R200 000

AgriBEE: A sectoral broad-based black economic empowerment framework aimed at a deliberate and systematic support of Black South Africans to actively participate fully in the agricultural sector as owners, managers, professionals, skilled employees and/or consumers.

LRAD: Land Redistribution for Agricultural Development—provides grants to black South African citizens (Africans, Coloureds and Indians) to access land specifically for agricultural purposes, or to make better use of land already accessed (e.g. in communal areas).

Mafisa: Micro-agricultural Financial Institutions of South Africa—provides access to finance for farmers, especially beneficiaries of the land restitution, redistribution and tenure reform programmes.

CASP: Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme—provides post-settlement support to the targeted beneficiaries of land reform and to other producers who have acquired land through private means and are, for example, engaged in value-adding enterprises domestically or are involved in exports.

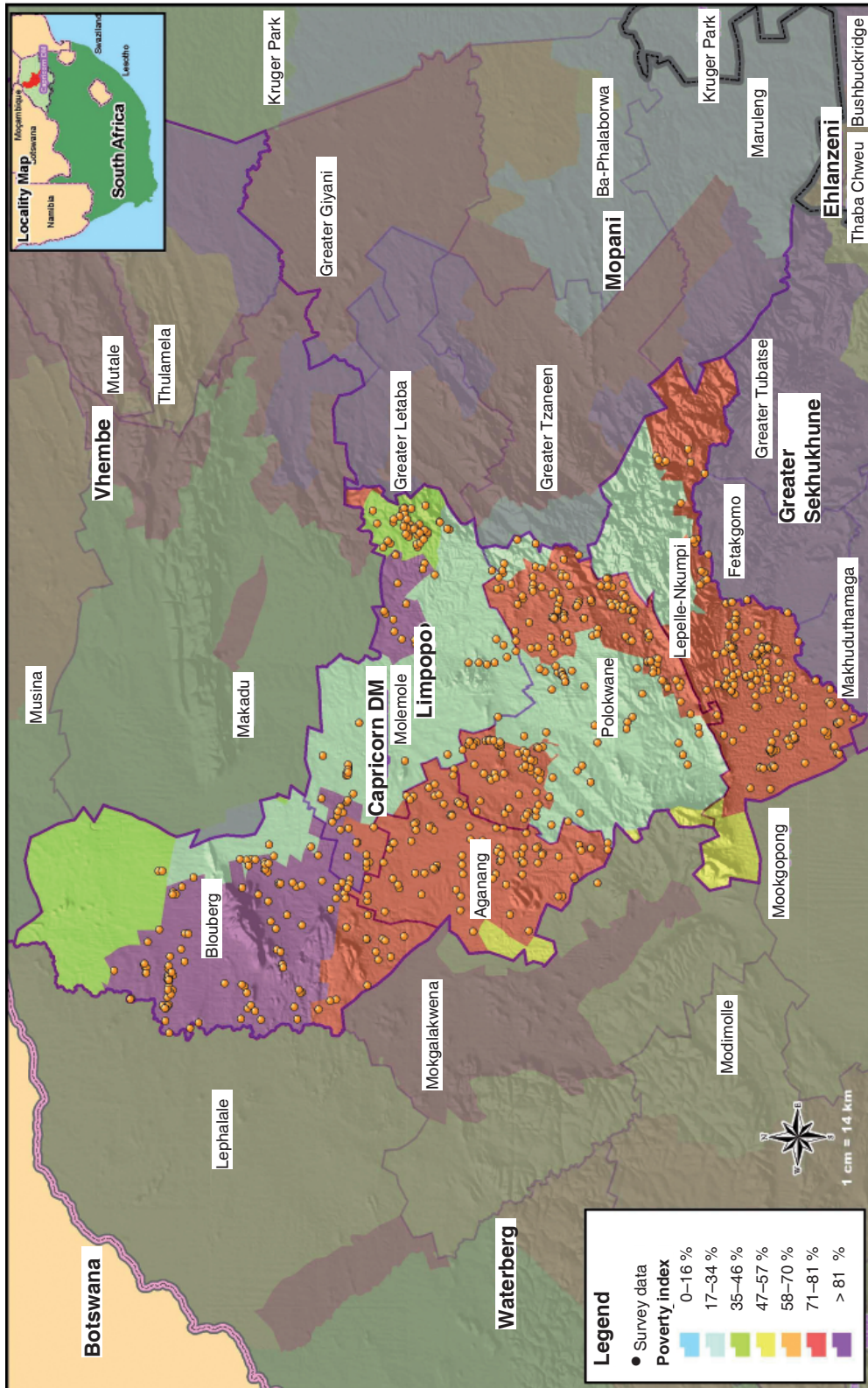
Age groups: 16 to 35 years, 36 to 59 years and 60+ years

Collection method: Information and data were collected by personal visits. Data collectors/enumerators were accompanied by extension officers to each farming unit.

Collection period: The reference period is the period during which details relating to the farming units, farmers and employees involved in the farming activities were collected, i.e. between 1 September 2008 and 20 March 2009.

Reference date: The statistics collected are as at 31 March 2008.

Confidentiality: In terms of Section 17 of the Statistics Act, 1999 (Act No. 6 of 1999), the completed questionnaire remains confidential to the DAFF and will not be disclosed to other parties or used for any other purpose.



Farmer Register pilot data map: Georeferenced farms and agricultural projects surveyed within the Capricorn District in Limpopo Province, South Africa

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Farming information

The municipality with the largest number of both commercial and subsistence farming units surveyed, was Polokwane with a total of 233 farming units, followed by Lepelle-Nkumpi with a total of 210 farming units, then by Blouberg with a total of 138 farming units (see Table 3, p. 10). In general, subsistence farming in Capricorn District had a share of 82 % as indicated in Fig. 1 below.

Employment

The number of permanent employees in the farming units, at the end of March 2008, stood at 1 943, while the number of casual employees stood at 1 892. The lowest income group (i.e. turnover of less than R100 000 per year) came out to be the largest contributor in terms of employment, creating 35,2 % permanent and 73,1 % casual jobs. The largest number of permanent employees in the agricultural sector worked in Molemole (42,9 % or 834 permanent employees), followed by Polokwane (23,3 % or 459 permanent employees) and Lepelle-Nkumpi (18,0 % or 351 permanent employees). Total employment (permanent and casual together with owners or respondents) was 4 634. It was found that 97 farming units out of 799 farmed for personal consumption only, while 35 farming units were inactive.

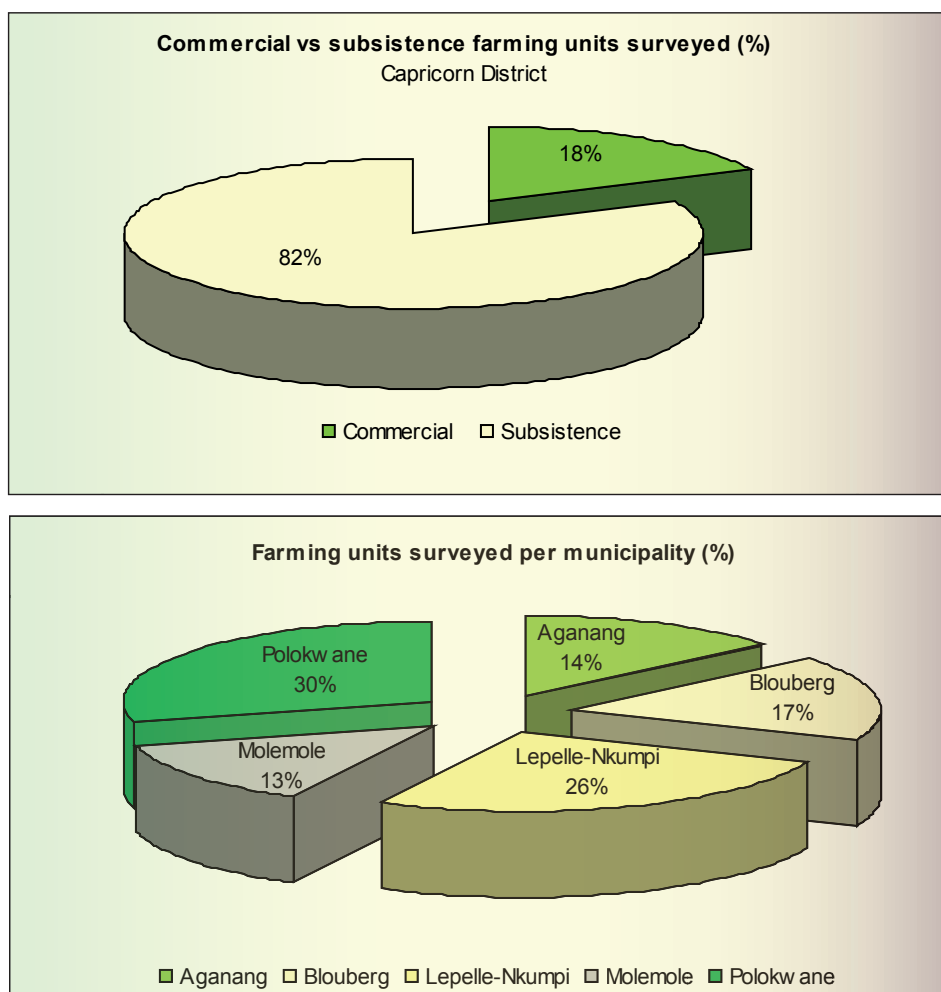


FIG. 1 Farming units in Capricorn District

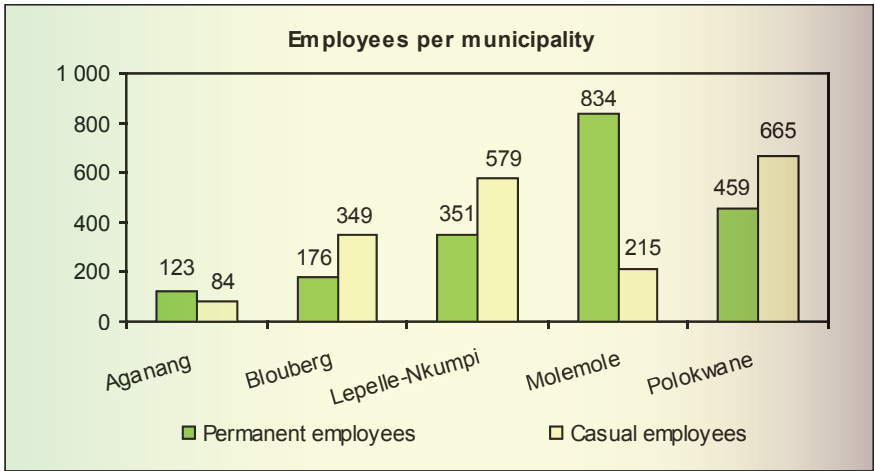


FIG. 2 Number of employees on farming units surveyed per municipality

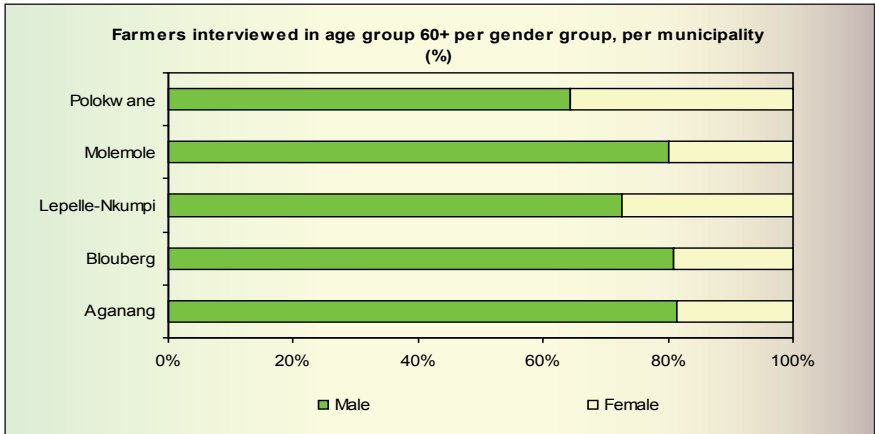
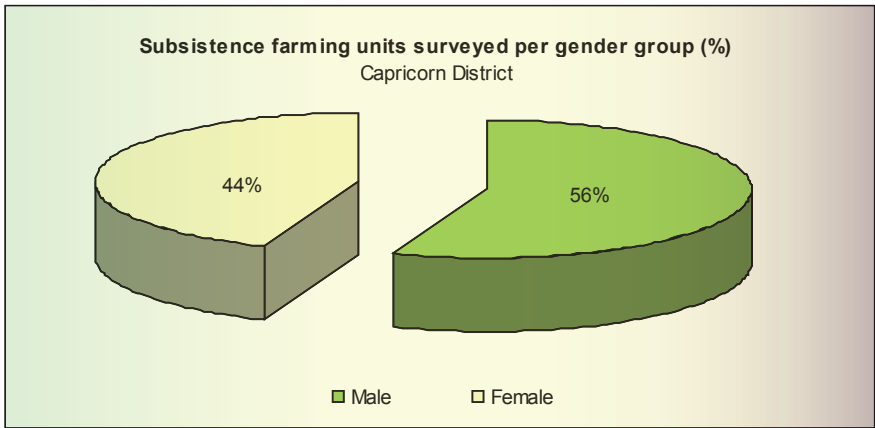
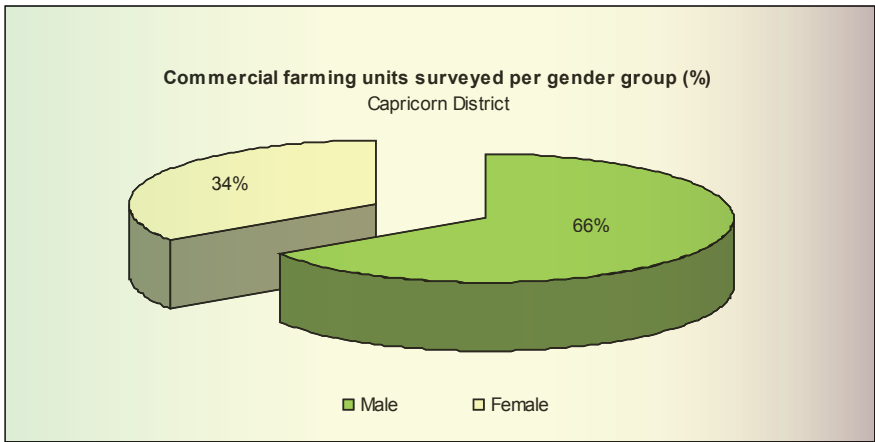


FIG 3 Commercial and subsistence farming units per age group, gender and municipality

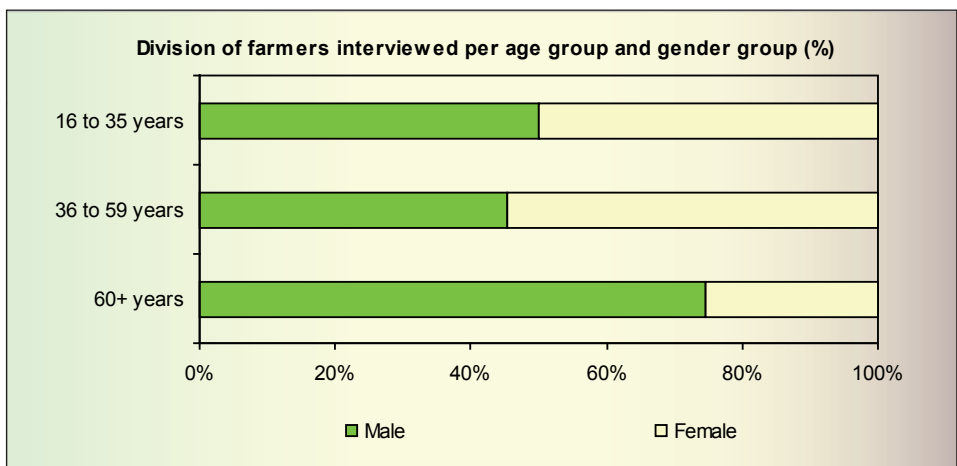
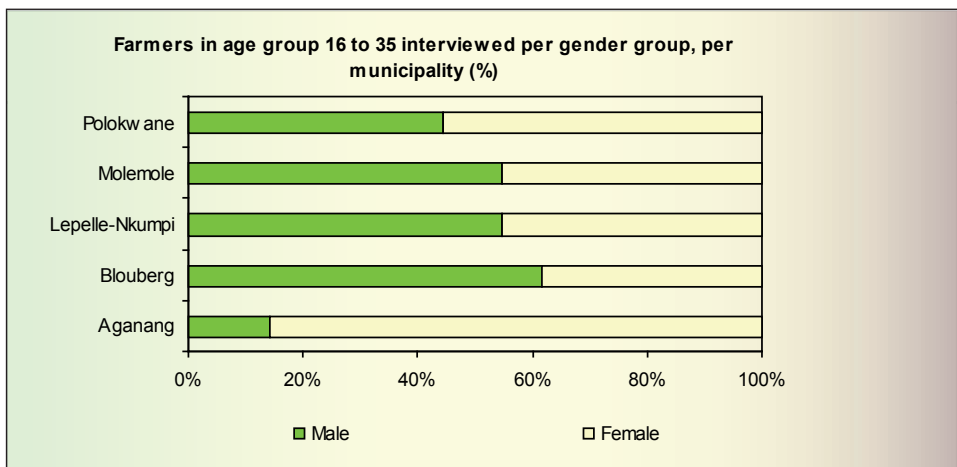
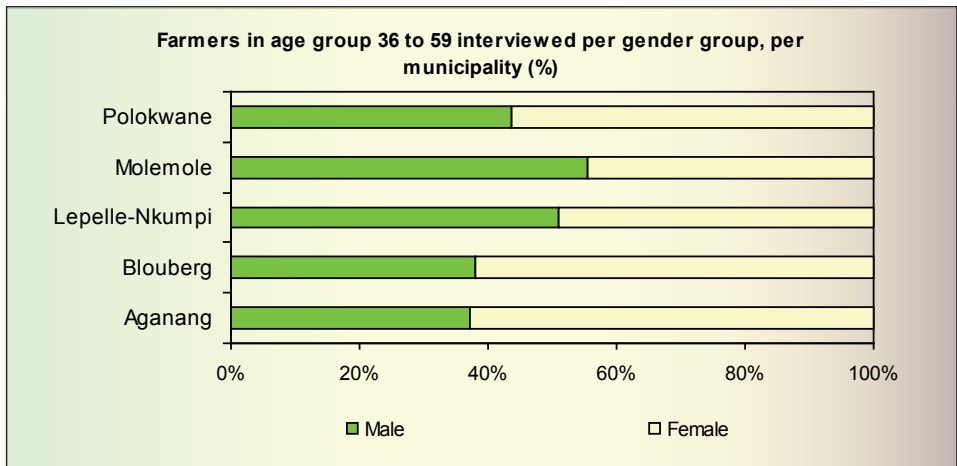


FIG 3 Commercial and subsistence farming units per age-group, gender and municipality (continued)

In terms of ownership, males enjoyed a share of 61 % of farming units enumerated in Capricorn District. Of these farming units, 50 % were owned by people in the age-group 36 to 59 years, while the age-group 60+ years had a share of 42 %.

Table 5 (p. 13) shows that about 74% or 590 of farming units visited, have reported to have a turnover of less than R100 000 per annum. A large number of these farming units, about 63 %, were involved in subsistence farming. Farming units with a turnover of less than R100 000 contributed about 54 % of employment (permanent or casual and seasonal).

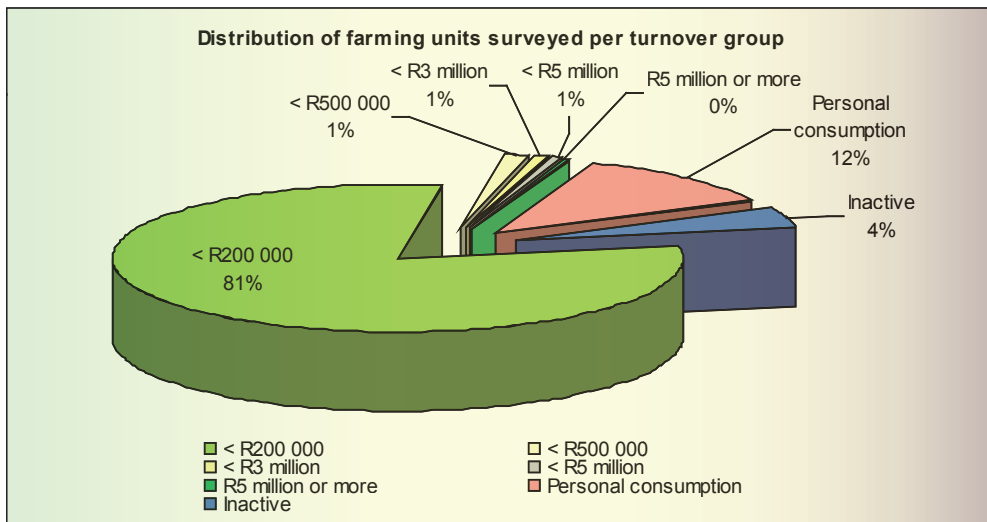


FIG 4 Percentage distribution of commercial and subsistence farming units per income group

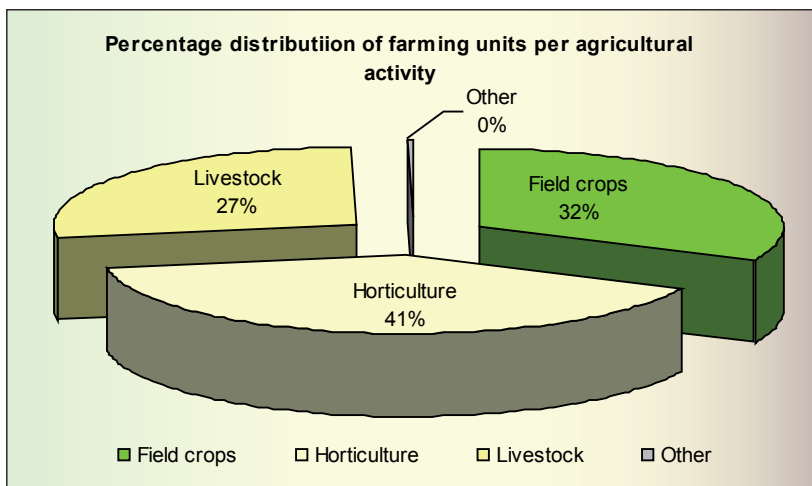


FIG 5 Percentage distribution of farming units according to agricultural activity

OWNERSHIP OF THE FARM

According to Table 2 (p. 9), about 36,4 % or 291 of the farms visited were owned by the community, while 18,2 % or 146 of the farms were owned by a family, farms owned by individuals had a share of 17,4 % or were 139 in number, then followed farms owned by Co-operative Society at 15,9 %, or 127 in number.

Land reform and agricultural finance programmes

Table 7 (p. 14) shows that only 5 % of farming units in Capricorn District indicated that they have participated in land reform or agricultural finance programmes or have received financial assistance from other institutions mentioned below the table.

About 18,9 % (151 of enumerated farming units) have indicated that they were involved in more than one farming division, hence the totals in Table 6 add up to more than 799 of enumerated farming units. According to Table 6 (p. 13), farming units in Capricorn District were mostly involved in horticulture, with a 41 % share, followed by field crops at 32 % and livestock at 27 %. Participation in aquaculture seemed to be minimal, almost zero.

Farm information

TABLE 1 Number of commercial and subsistence farm operators per gender and population group, per municipality

	Municipality	Black		White		Coloured		Asian		Total	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
		Number									
Commercial farming	Aganang	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	6
	Blouberg	17	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	12
	Lepelle-Nkumpi	27	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	10
	Molemole	13	7	5	3	0	0	0	0	18	10
	Polokwane	25	13	4	0	0	0	0	0	29	13
	Total	85	48	9	3	0	0	0	0	94	51
Subsistence farming	Municipality	Black		White		Coloured		Asian		Total	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
		Number									
	Aganang	62	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	62	41
	Blouberg	59	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	59	50
	Lepelle-Nkumpi	98	75	0	0	0	0	0	0	98	75
Molemole	51	27	1	0	0	0	0	0	52	27	
Polokwane	94	96	0	0	0	0	0	0	94	96	
	Total	364	289	1	0	0	0	0	0	365	289
Grand total		449	337	10	3	0	0	0	0	459	340

TABLE 2 Number of commercial and subsistence farming units per type of ownership and municipality

	Number										
	Individual	Family	Partner-ship	Private company	Public company	Public corporation	Close corporation	Cooperative society	Government	Trust	Community
Commercial farming	Municipality										
	Aganang	0	5	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
	Blouberg	5	11	0	0	0	5	4	0	0	3
	Lepelle-Nkumpi	8	13	0	1	2	2	0	1	0	10
	Molemole	7	3	4	0	0	1	5	0	8	0
	Polokwane	8	13	1	1	0	3	11	0	0	4
Total	28	45	5	2	2	12	21	8	1	8	19
Subsistence farming	Municipality										
	Aganang	7	12	2	0	0	5	27	0	3	47
	Blouberg	29	23	1	1	1	1	16	3	0	33
	Lepelle-Nkumpi	44	38	2	0	1	1	5	0	0	82
	Molemole	12	3	1	0	2	0	16	0	24	20
	Polokwane	19	23	0	0	0	6	42	2	2	89
Total	111	99	6	1	4	13	106	5	29	271	
Grand total	139	144	11	3	6	25	127	6	37	290	

TABLE 3 Number of commercial and subsistence farming units and employees per municipality

	Municipality	Farming units	Permanent employees		Casual and seasonal employees
			Number		
Commercial farming	Aganang	9	36	5	
	Blouberg	29	126	153	
	Lepelle-Nkumpi	37	251	172	
	Molemole	28	482	135	
	Polokwane	42	411	329	
	Total	145	1 306	794	
Subsistence farming	Municipality	Farming units	Permanent employees	Casual and seasonal employees	
	Number				
	Aganang	103	87	79	
	Blouberg	109	50	196	
	Lepelle-Nkumpi	173	100	407	
	Molemole	79	352	80	
Polokwane	190	48	336		
Total	654	637	1 098		
Grand total		799	1 943	1 892	

TABLE 4 Number of farm operators per age group, gender and race, per municipality

	Municipality	Black		White		Coloured		Asian		Total	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
		Number									
60+ years	Aganang	44	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	10
	Blouberg	42	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	42	10
	Lepelle-Nkumpi	58	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	58	22
	Molemole	31	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	32	8
	Polokwane	66	37	1	0	0	0	0	0	67	37
	Total	241	87	2	0	0	0	0	0	243	87
	Municipality	Black		White		Coloured		Asian		Total	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
	Number										
36 to 59 years	Aganang	19	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	32
	Blouberg	27	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	44
	Lepelle-Nkumpi	55	53	0	0	0	0	0	0	55	53
	Molemole	27	22	4	3	0	0	0	0	31	25
	Polokwane	50	68	3	0	0	0	0	0	53	68
	Total	178	219	7	3	0	0	0	0	185	222

TABLE 4 Number of farm operators per age group, gender and race, per municipality (continued)

Municipality	Black		White		Coloured		Asian		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
	Number									
Aganang	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6
Blouberg	8	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	5
Lepelle-Nkumpi	12	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	10
Molemole	6	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	5
Polokwane	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	5
Total	31	30	1	0	0	0	0	0	31	31
Grand total	450	336	10	3	0	0	0	0	459	340

TABLE 5 Number of farming units and employees per income group

Category	Number of farming units	Employment	
		Permanent employees	Casual and seasonal employees
		Number	
R5 million or more	2	108	71
R3 million ≤ T < R5 million	4	439	0
R500 000 ≤ T < R3 million	8	146	24
R300 000 ≤ T < R500 000	10	450	71
R200 000 ≤ T < R300 000	1	7	50
R100 000 ≤ T < R200 000	52	108	284
T < R100 000	590	685	1 392
Personal Consumption	97	0	0
Inactive	35	0	0
Total	799	1 943	1 892

T = turnover

TABLE 6 Number of farming units per agricultural activity, per municipality

Municipality	Livestock	Horticulture	Number		
			Field crop	Aquaculture	Other
Aganang	43	29	53	0	0
Blouberg	32	98	43	0	0
Lepelle-Nkumpi	59	138	43	1	0
Molemole	53	49	37	0	0
Polokwane	71	71	128	1	0
Total	258	385	304	2	0

TABLE 7 Number of farming units benefiting from land redistribution and agricultural finance programmes per municipality

	Municipality	Land redistribution programmes				Agricultural finance programmes			
		SLAG	LRAD	Other	Mafisa	CASP	AgriBEE	Other ¹	
		Number							
Commercial farming	Aganang	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Blouberg	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	
	Lepelle-Nkumpi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Molemole	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Polokwane	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	
	Total	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	
Subsistence farming	Municipality	Land redistribution programmes				Agricultural finance programmes			
	SLAG	LRAD	Other	Mafisa	CASP	AgriBEE	Other ¹		
	Number								
	Aganang	0	0	0	0	0	2		
	Blouberg	1	0	0	0	1	8		
	Lepelle-Nkumpi	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	Molemole	2	10	0	0	0	0		
	Polokwane	0	7	0	0	1	4		
	Total	3	17	0	0	2	14		
	Grand total	5	17	0	0	5	14		

¹Refers to the following:

- Limpopo Business Support Agency (LIBSA)
- Limpopo Agricultural Development Programme (LADEP)
- MACDEV
- FINLAND
- Eskom
- Department of Health