

Urban Livelihoods after the Fast Track Land Reform Programme in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

Philani Moyo

*University of Fort Hare, Department of Sociology, 50 Church Street,
East London, 5200, South Africa
E-mail: pmoyo@ufh.ac.za*

KEYWORDS Land Reform. Farmers. Urban Livelihoods. Food Production. Income Generation

ABSTRACT This paper examines the impact of land access on the livelihoods of urban middle-income, low-income and urban poor who are beneficiaries of Zimbabwe's fast track land reform programme. Focusing on Bulawayo-based beneficiaries, it finds a wealth of historical and cultural value attached to this new land ownership. It also finds that while not all new Black farmers are productive, there is emerging evidence of some urban-based smallholder farmers investing private capital in on-farm implements and operations resulting in sizeable food production for urban consumption. There is also emerging entrepreneurialism among those who produce surpluses as they trade these in urban food markets. Through this, they are not only raising income but channelling food into the urban food system and urban food chains. However, even though there are success cases, the paper identifies financial, input, asset and technical know-how limitations among urban based smallholder farmers. In view of these, it poses questions on what policy interventions need to be instituted, by who and how to support these smallholder urban based farmers become sustainable and more productive under Zimbabwe's new agrarian structure.