



© Kamla-Raj 2017



Taylor & Francis
Taylor & Francis Group

J Hum Ecol, 58(3): 153-161 (2017)
DOI: 10.1080/09709274.2017.1317504

Small Scale Agriculture in Enhancing Household Food Security in Rural Areas

Mfundo Masuku*, Mosa Selepe and Nkosi Ngcobo

*Anthropology and Development Studies and Consumer Sciences, University of Zululand,
Private Bag X1001, KwaDlangezwa, 3886 South Africa
E-mail: MasukuM@unizulu.ac.za

KEYWORDS Alleviate. Farming. Food Insecurity. Land. Rural

ABSTRACT Agriculture has a significant role in contributing to rural economic growth and ensuring food security. However, the agricultural sector has been exposed to challenges such as climate change and scarcity of resources that affect production. In spite of agricultural challenges, South Africa is still food self-sufficient nationally, except at household level. The study sets out to determine the effects of agriculture on household food security in rural areas. A survey was conducted in *uThungulu* District Municipality within six local municipalities using questionnaires and semi-structured interviews. Crop and livestock farming are recognised as the strategies to alleviate food insecurity. Agricultural policies need to be prioritised. Monitor and evaluation tools must be developed to track whether these policies reflect the needs of rural populace. The Government should become the custodian of land and develop programmes that will enable rural people to access land to promote agriculture for improvement of food security.