

THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMME ON SUSTAINABLE  
LIVELIHOODS OF SMALL – SCALE COMMERCIAL FARMERS IN MARIENTAL  
RURAL CONSTITUENCY OF THE HARDAP REGION, NAMIBIA

A THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE  
DEGREE OF MASTER OF EDUCATION (ADULT EDUCATION)

OF

THE UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA

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OCTOBER 2019

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## **ABSTRACT**

At independence, Namibia was confronted with a skewed land tenure system where the minority owned vast productive land (Juach et al., 2013). To avoid losing land to dominant locals and rich occupants the government established the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement to be responsible for the process of land reform and resettlement. As a result, the resettlement programme was established to assist in addressing social injustices and to improve the lives of those who are encircled by poverty. A resettlement programme is a developmental approach aimed at the alleviation of poverty and to uplift people's livelihoods.

This study investigated the contribution of Land Reform and Resettlement Programme (LRRP) on sustainable livelihoods of small-scale livestock commercial farmers in the Mariental Rural Constituency of Hardap Region. The study used a case study design of the qualitative approach to capture the reality of the small-scale livestock commercial farmers' lived experiences of and thoughts about the resettlement programme, its intended purpose and benefits to them.

The study revealed that the programme beneficiaries have managed to accumulate assets they did not have before they were resettled. The researcher assessed the lives of resettled farmers and remarkable improvement was observed and tangible assets were evident. In terms of natural assets, the study findings have shown that all beneficiaries have access to land to do their farming and improve their livelihoods. Despite these successes, the programme beneficiaries are faced with numerous challenges such as small farm sizes, drought and lack of sufficient rainfall, poor infrastructure and lack of knowledge, skills and post-settlement support. In light of these

findings, beneficiaries suggested possible solutions that could have a role in strengthening their livelihoods at present and in the future. Pre and post settlement support, training and orientation are very important elements to the success of resettlement programmes in this country. Furthermore, financial support or start-up capital to buy livestock should be availed immediately after the resettlement process as this will enable the beneficiary to start farming immediately.

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## **List of Abbreviations and Acronyms**

<b>AGRIBANK:</b>	Agricultural Bank of Namibia
<b>CCA:</b>	Climate Change Adaptation
<b>DFID:</b>	British Department for Institutional Development
<b>FURS:</b>	Farm Unit Resettlement Scheme
<b>IECN:</b>	Integrated Environmental Consultants Namibia
<b>LAC:</b>	Legal Assistance Centre
<b>LRRP:</b>	Land Reform and Resettlement Programme
<b>LSU:</b>	Large -Stock Unit
<b>MAWF:</b>	Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (2005 onwards)
<b>MLR:</b>	Ministry of Lands and Resettlement (2005-2015)
<b>MLRR:</b>	Ministry of Land Resettlement and Rehabilitation (1990-2005)
<b>MLR:</b>	Ministry of Land Reform (2015 onwards)
<b>NHIES:</b>	National Housing Income and Expenditure Survey
<b>NPC:</b>	Namibia National Planning Commission
<b>NGO's:</b>	Non-Governmental Organizations
<b>PSSF:</b>	Post -Settlement Support Fund
<b>PSS:</b>	Post-Settlement Support
<b>SLA:</b>	Sustainable livelihood Approach
<b>SLF:</b>	Sustainable Livelihood Framework
<b>SSU:</b>	Small-Stock Unit
<b>UNDP:</b>	United Nations Development Program

## **Acknowledgements**

Firstly, I would like to thank God almighty for being my internal rock and a source of refuge through the journey of my studies. I would also like to thank my supervisor, Dr Miriam Hamunyela for her priceless supervision, guidance and support. The same special gratitude of appreciation goes to my wife and entire family for their tireless support and encouragement.

## **Dedication**

This thesis is dedicated to my late sister JEFTALINE UAJAPI NGAVETENE, late brother KATARI MAHUA MATAMBO and the loving memory of my mother INAUKENGA CHRISTOPHINE NGAVETENE who without attending any formal education strived to see me educated.

**Declarations**

I, Jefta Vatuna Ngavetene hereby declare that this work is a true reflection of my own research, and that this work has not been submitted for a degree in any other institution of higher-learning.

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# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Orientation of the study

At independence, Namibia was confronted with a skewed land tenure system whereby the minority owned vast productive land (Juach, Edwards & Cupido, 2013). Consequently, the Ministry of Lands, Resettlement and Rehabilitation was established and mandated to redistribute land through the Land Reform and Resettlement Programme (LRRP). The land reform and resettlement programme was established to assist in addressing social injustices and to improve the lives of those who are encircled by poverty (Ghimire, 2001). According to Dikgang and Muchapondwa (2016), there is a strong and positive correlation between access to land, other assets and welfare-generation potential for LRRP beneficiaries. Therefore, in response to rural poverty, Vista, Nel and Binns (2012) indicate that numerous countries around the world, both rich and poor, have implemented land and agrarian reform over the past century which successfully uplifts their people's living standards.

Namibia is a country with a population of 2 113 077 inhabitants, of whom 57% live in rural areas and directly depend on agriculture. Namibia is classified as an upper middle income country, with an estimated Annual Gross National Income (GNI) per capita of UU\$5 693. In 2010 the poverty line of annualized per adult equivalent expenditure, after adjusting for inflation, were: lower bound N\$3 330.48 and upper bound N\$4 535.52 (Namibia National Planning Commission, 2015).

Namibia is divided into 14 regions and subdivided into 121 constituencies. The 14 regions are namely Erongo, Hardap, Karas, Kavango east, Kavango west, Khomas, Kunene, Ohangwena, Omaheke, Omusati, Oshana, Oshikoto, Otjozondjupa and Zambezi. The Hardap region is in the southern part of the country and covers a total land area of 109 659 km<sup>2</sup> with a total population of 79 705 residents (Namibia National Planning Commission, 2015). It is one of the driest regions in Namibia, with an average rainfall ranging between 0mm in the Namib Desert to the west, to 300mm towards the eastern parts of the region. The southern parts of Hardap receive an average rainfall of 100mm, increasing to 300mm for the Rehoboth area further north. The temperature can rise extremely high, above 36 Degree Celsius, while the coldest average minimum temperatures can be below 2 Degree Celsius (Integrated Environmental Consultants Namibia, IECN, (2011).

The region is suitable for small stock production given its aridity. Farmers can capitalise on small stock (Dorpers, Karakul and Goat farming). The development of the small stock slaughter industry by the government or private sector will ensure value addition to the meat produced in the region and ensure higher income for farmers. According to Agenbach (2005), Karakul pelt and Ostrich industries has comparative advantages on which farmers can capitalize on.

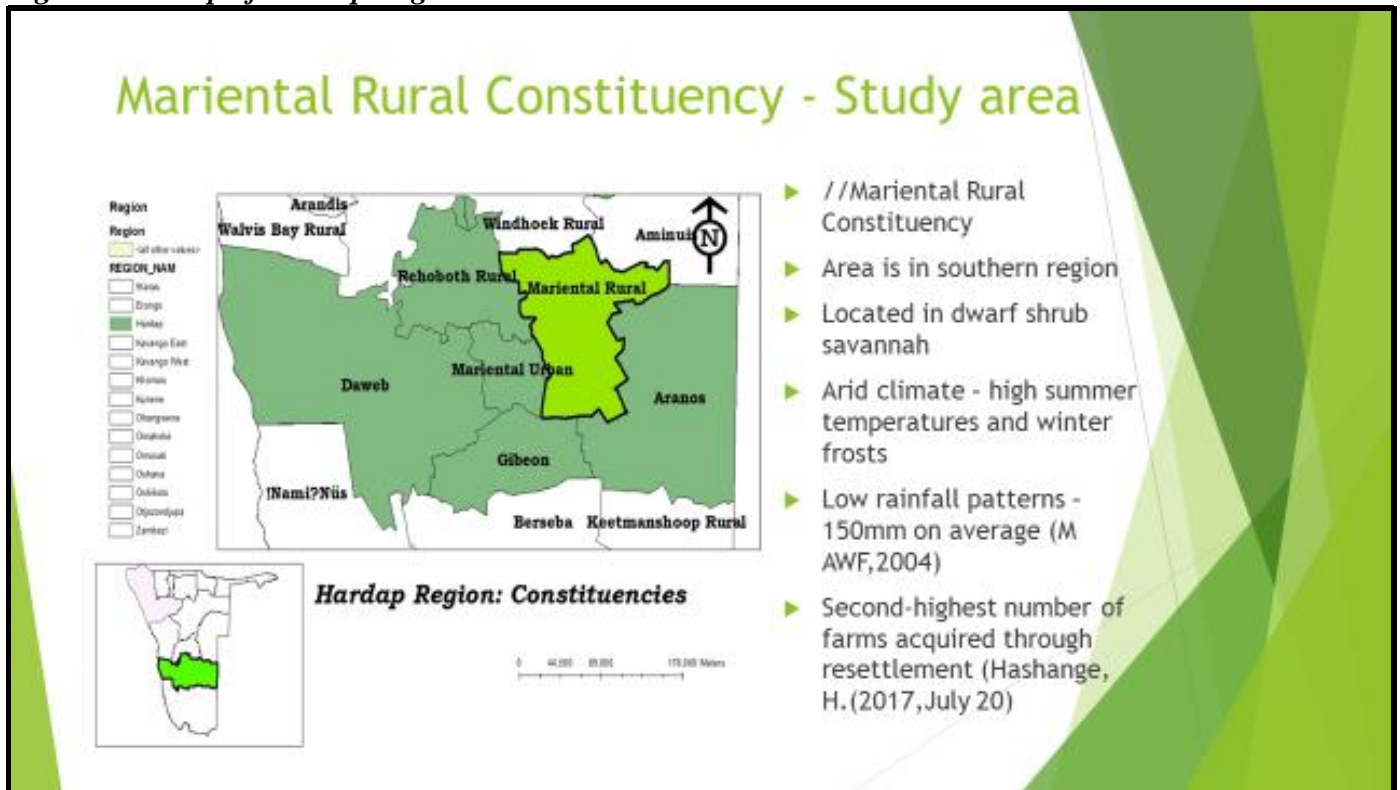
Furthermore, according to Dikgang and Muchapondwa (2016) the group scheme resettlement farmers in Namibia obtained rights to a piece of land however in terms of socio-economic improvements of livelihoods in general, the group resettlement scheme has not proved successful. Although farmers resettled on small-scale commercial farming units appear to have generated higher incomes from farming, it is however not possible to indicate with certainty if

the current resettlement model is succeeding in improving livelihoods (Werner & Odendaal, 2010).

Vista, Nel, and Binns (2012) reveal that agrarian reform potentially has a key economic impact on the lives of farmers as they become self-employed and earn income, and this can contribute to poverty reduction in a country. It is believed that the LRRP should have the ability to unlock farmer's potential for more production output and diversified livelihood. As an agricultural practitioner, the researcher observed that the outcome of the LRRP in Namibia, specifically in Hardap region has been characterised by a mix of on and off farm income earnings. Resettled farmers combine land-based livelihood strategies with other strategies to survive. Other strategies mainly consist of off-farm income streams, the most important sources of which are money earned through contract work on commercial farms and nearby villages or towns. This situation negatively affects the farmer's on-farm productions for livelihood. Werner and Odendaal (2010) explored whether farmers' livelihoods improved after LRRP was implemented in Hardap and Omaheke regions of Namibia. Their findings however, did not make it clear whether the product output generated from the resettlement programme is succeeding in improving resettled farmers' livelihoods. This gap in the current literature prompts further investigation. It was however important for this research to find out on how commercial farmers of the Hardap region can use the agrarian reform benefits they receive from the resettlement programme to reduce poverty.

While large commercial farmers generally manage to overcome challenges through access to a range of commercial and cooperative services, land reform beneficiaries and small-scale farmers are largely left to fend for themselves. Moreover, small-scale commercial farming units are the prominent method of land distribution in Mariental constituency and the researcher was keen in choosing the constituency for this study. Furthermore, the researcher chose the constituency based on accessibility and locality of farms.

**Figure 1: A map of Hardap Region Constituencies**



Source: Adapted from NPC (2015)

The figure above indicates the constituencies of the Hardap region: Mariental Rural (the site of this study), Mariental Urban, Aranos, Gibeon, Daweb and Rehoboth Rural. The study was done in the Hardap Region (Figure 1), mainly around Mariental Rural Constituency farms. The study area is located in the dwarf shrub savannah of the Namibian Nama Karoo, in southern Namibia.

The climate is arid, characterized by high summer temperatures and winter frosts, as well as low precipitations of 100-150mm on average but with a coefficient of variation of 0.66 among the highest in the world. Droughts are also frequent in this part of the country. Consequently, inter-annual variations in vegetation growth (biomass) reach 95% MAWF (2004), a level comparable to that of deserts only. Soils are poor in nutrients but water remains the main limiting factor to primary production most of the years (Domtail, 2007). Ranching is conducted on natural rangelands with very low carrying capacities thus in a way limiting the number of livestock owned by farmers that leads to lower production and increased poverty.

## **1.2 Statement of the problem**

While studies on LRRP in other countries (such as Ethiopia and Philippines) report with certainty the positive contribution of the programme towards the amelioration of livelihoods of resettled farmers (Dikgang et al., 2016; Vista et al., 2011 and Marceline 2016), there are no adequate reports in Namibia supporting or refuting the positive contribution of the programme towards the amelioration of livelihoods of resettled farmers. Werner and Odendaal's (2010) findings on the same phenomenon studied in Omaheke and Hardap regions are not clear whether or not the current resettlement programme is succeeding in improving resettled farmers' livelihoods. The current literature on land reform seems to lack clear and definite information on whether or not the resettlement programme is contributing to the improvement of beneficiaries' livelihoods in Namibia. This gap in the literature triggered the researcher to undertake an investigation into how the LRRP contributes towards the sustainable livelihood options of the

resettled farmers in the Mariental rural constituency. The researcher studied small-scale livestock commercial farmers resettled in Mariental rural constituency.

### **1.3 Research questions**

This study was directed by the following research questions:

1. What is the resettled farmers' understanding of the resettlement programme in terms of its purpose in the Mariental Rural Constituency?
2. To what extent do resettled farmers implement their understanding of the resettlement programme?
3. What assets and wealth are accumulated by resettled farmers since the implementation of the resettlement programme?
4. What challenges do they face in terms of the resettlement programme in maintaining sustainable livelihood options of livestock resettled farmers?
5. How do the resettled farmers deal with the challenges to maintain sustainable livelihood options?

### **1.4 Significance of the study**

The findings of the study will benefit the Ministry of Land Reform (MLR) as it will sensitize the ministry about successes and failures of the programme, and provide suggestions for

improvement. Policy makers and community workers such as extension officers will be informed of the nature of the farmers training needs, type of support needed and challenges that may inform the development of improved programmes and adjust policies that will meet the farmers' needs. Above all, this study is expected to add new knowledge to the current literature, thus contribute to the academic discipline of community education and development.

### **1.5 Limitations of the study**

This study only focused on small-scale resettled livestock farmers in Mariental rural constituency. Lack of time due to vast distances, rocky rough landscape of the region and raining conditions at the time of data collection hindered the researcher's access to certain farms and delayed the process of data collection. Thus, data collection time frame extended to more than what was anticipated. Therefore, this study's findings cannot be generalized to the larger population of Hardap region.

### **1.6 Delimitation of the study**

This study was done in Mariental Rural Constituency and focused on small-scale livestock resettled farmers who could speak and understand English and Afrikaans for better communication with the researcher. Only livestock farmers who were resettled for more than five years were studied in order to assess the effects of the LRRP over time. The study did not consider crop farmers.

## **1.7 Summary**

This chapter provided an introduction to the study that explored the contribution of Land Reform and Resettlement Programme (LRRP) on sustainable livelihoods of small-scale livestock commercial farmers in the Mariental Rural Constituency of Hardap Region. The researcher provided an orientation of the study to make the readers aware of the problem under study. The statement of the problem addressed the justification of the researcher on the current study and what the study strives to achieve. The significance of the study was highlighted and research questions acted as guidance for stating the objectives to be achieved. The limitations and delimitation of the study were also stated.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

The review of literature was done throughout the study process. Salkind (2014) argues that literature review, takes the researcher chronologically through the development of ideas; shows him/her how some of the ideas were left by the wayside because of lack of support, and tells him how some were confirmed as being truth. Literature review helped the researcher to identify gaps in previous research, in study reports, and also discover connections, contradictions or other relations between different research results by comparing various investigations. This activity led to the identification of this research study's focus (Bless & Higson-Smith, 1995).

This chapter provides a conceptual and theoretical framework as tools for analysing the LRRP's contribution to sustainable livelihoods of small-scale commercial farmers in Mariental Rural Constituency of the Hardap Region. Firstly, the chapter defines concepts such as Resettlement and Sustainable Livelihood and their importance towards LRRP. In addition, The Sustainable Livelihood Option framework is outlined through a figure on how it is used for conducting livelihood analysis. The chapter furthermore gives an overview with regard to successes and failures of different resettlement programmes around the globe. Lastly, it will discuss different challenges faced by resettled farmers and how these challenges affect LRRP.

## **2.2 Conceptual framework**

### **2.2.1 Resettlement for livelihood**

The term Resettlement, historically has been used to describe the idea of people returning to an area they had, or were supposed to have lived previously (Mulaw, 2010). The Ministry of Land Reform in Namibia defines resettlement as movement of people from an area with insufficient resources to the one which is more likely to provide a satisfactory standard of living (National Resettlement Policy, 2001). The policy document indicates that the resettlement philosophy of the ministry advocates for providing people with land, housing, infrastructure, knowledge and skills to maintain and develop their new environment and entitlements. Furthermore, establishing an innovative attitude in resettled people, in which the spirit of self-reliance is the underlying principle on which development, is to be built by the government or the people themselves.

At independence, Namibia was confronted with a skewed land tenure system where the minority owned vast productive land (Juach et al., 2013). To avoid losing land to dominant locals and rich occupants the government established the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement to be responsible for the process of land reform and resettlement. As a result, the resettlement programme was established to assist in addressing social injustices and to improve the lives of those who are encircled by poverty (Ghimire, 2001). A resettlement programme is a development approach aimed at the alleviation of poverty and to uplift people's livelihoods. According to the National Resettlement Policy (2001), the immediate aim of the resettlement programme is to make settlers self-reliant either in terms of food production or self-employment and income generating skills. To this end beneficiaries should achieve an improvement in living standards, enhance regional

development, through the beneficial and wise use of natural and human resources. Lipton and Saghai (2015) indicate that although the main goal of land reform is poverty reduction (high-end inequality and inequality of opportunity) it also increases liberty. They further argue that an individual is free if he lives a self-determining life, that is, a life that is not dominated by others or tyranny of necessity.

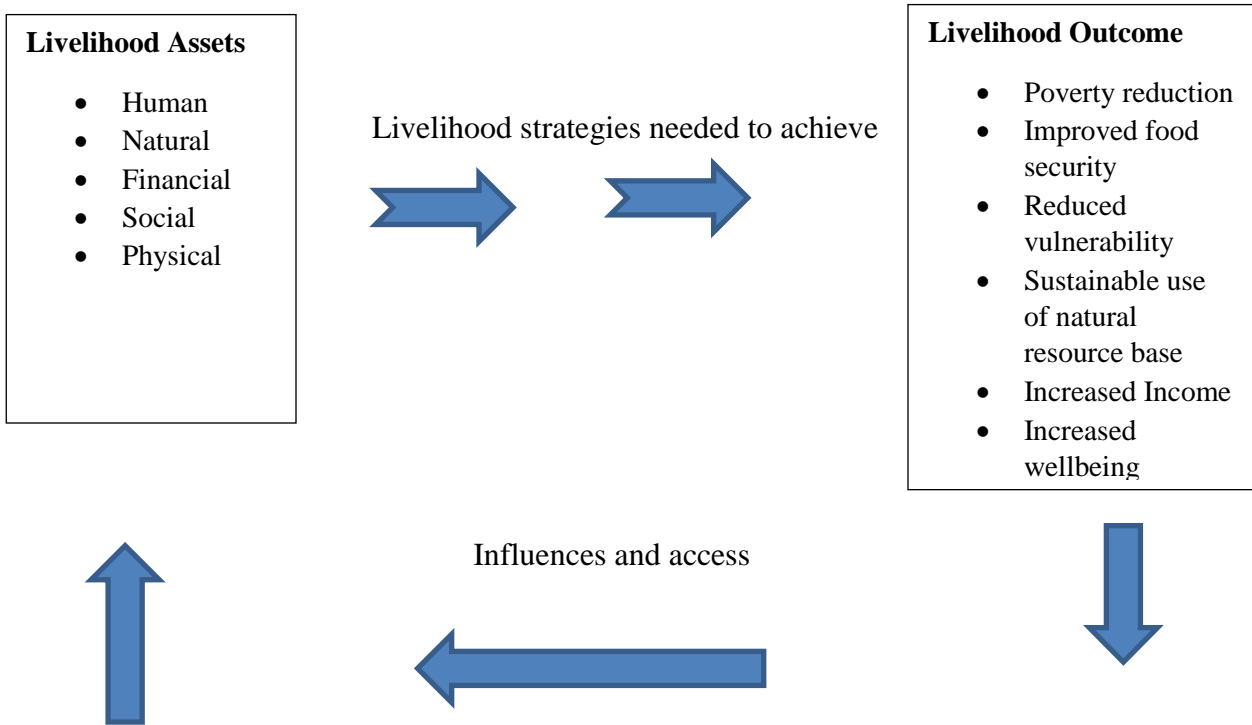
### **2.2.2 Sustainable Livelihood**

The concept of sustainable livelihood is increasingly becoming important in the development debate, poverty reduction and environmental management (Scoones, 1998). According to Mulaw (2010), the meaning of the concept can often appear elusive, either due to vagueness or to different definitions being encountered in different sources. A common definition is the one which is provided by Chambers and Conway (1999) wherein a livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets and activities required for means of living; activities that result in production, income generation, self-employment and self-reliance. Sustainability as such can be defined as the process of living within the limits of available physical, natural and social resources in ways that allow the living systems in which humans are embedded to thrive in perpetuity.

According to the British Department for Institutional Development (DFID) (2000), livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future, while not undermining the natural resource base. In support, de Beer and Swanepoel (2013) affirm that the livelihoods of the people are influenced by the context (shocks, trends and seasonality, policies, institutions and processes).

The Sustainable Livelihood Approach (SLA) has been advocated as a useful framework in analysing how farmers were able to gain and sustain resources for livelihood activities (Mulaw, 2010).

**Figure: 2 Sustainable Livelihoods Framework**



*Source: Adapted from DFID (2001)*

The livelihood framework identifies core asset categories or types of capital upon which livelihoods are built. According to DFID (2000) the Sustainable Livelihood theory’s notion states that people require a range of assets to achieve their positive livelihood outcomes. However, no single category of assets on its own is sufficient to yield the many and varied livelihood outcomes that people seek.

According to Zeleke and Asfaw (2014) the five types of capital upon which livelihood are built are: human, natural, financial, social and physical. Furthermore, human capital refers to the education level and health status of individuals and population. Natural capital refers to the natural resources base (land, water, rain) that yields products utilized by human populations for their survival. Social capital refers to the social networks and associations in which people participate, and from which they can derive support that contribute to their livelihoods. Physical capital refers to assets bought into existence in the economic production process (tools, livestock, and machinery and communication services). Financial capital refers to stocks of cash that can be accessed in order to purchase production or consumption goods, access to credit (e.g. Agribank loans, cash in hand, pensions and other transfers from state and remittances). Singh (2007) as hinted by Zeleke and Asfaw (2014) regard financial capital as the most versatile among the five capitals of livelihood assets as it can be converted into other types of assets, or it can also be used to achieve livelihood outcomes directly.

Livelihood strategies compromise the range and combination of activities and choices that people undertake in order to achieve their livelihood goals. These strategies are farming activities (livestock production and cropping), off-farm activities (daily labour work, food for work), and non-farm activities (petty trade, hand crafting and remittances) which help households to build livelihood assets and contribute to welfare improvements and livelihood outcome (Zeleke & Asfaw, 2014).

Livelihood outcomes are the end result of adequately built livelihood assets, diversified livelihood strategies adopted with adaptation and resilience mechanisms. Potential livelihood outcomes can include more income, poverty reduction, increased wellbeing, reduced

vulnerability, improved food security, more sustainable use of natural resource base, and recovered human dignity (DFID, 2000).

### **2.3 Theoretical framework**

This study was informed by the neo-classical theory of Thorstein Veblen (Clark, 2017). Neoclassical is an economic theory that argues for markets to be free. It means allowing individual actors such as farmers and organised business entities to make plans and contribute to the economy of the country. According to Ayamga and Dzanku (2013), neoclassical theory has over the years profoundly articulated the privatization of land rights as a precondition for investment and economic growth. They further argue that individualization of land rights is perceived at providing incentives for investment in land by improving tenure security, improving access to credit and reducing land conflicts. Barrow and Roth (1990) argue that individualized tenure and registration of freehold is viewed as superior as compared to communal setup because owners are given incentives to use land most efficiently and thereby maximize agriculture's contribution to social wellbeing. Neo-classical theory's arguments are in favour of Individual Holdings, Farm Unit Resettlement Schemes or Small Scale Commercial Farmers as a method of resettlement scheme rather than the Group Resettlement Scheme. Neo-classical school of thought put forth few predictions, that the way the markets allocate resources such as land is efficient while government administered reallocations of land from land owners to resettlement farmers would likely reduce agrarian output (Zarin & Bujang, 1994). This prediction might oppose the claim that land reform in Namibia would lead to a more efficient allocation of land. According to

Dube and Moyo (2015) the theory further predicts a reduction of investment on land improvements leading to conversion of agricultural land to non-agricultural land. Zarin and Bujang (1994) are also of the opinion that land reform must be accompanied by changes in supporting services such as agriculture credit, marketing, research, training and extension, input supplies, technology, processing and storage. It is in the farmer's interest to commercialize if the appropriate infrastructure, extension and credit services, and macro-economic environment are in place (Sugden, 2009).

The neo-classical theory regards land reform as an integral part of the strategy and policy of economic development and one of the most valuable natural resource which represents the principal form of wealth and the main source of economic and political power (Zarin & Bujang, 1994; Clark, 2017). Clark argues that based on the neo-classical theory, those who become wealthy do so by hard work and frugality, while those who become poor do so by profligacy and laziness. This means that the livelihood of the resettled farmers can only change for better provided they work hard and do not take the programme for granted. The neo-classical theory informs this study as it implies that land reform must be accompanied by hardworking farmers and it can succeed by improving of beneficiaries' products and consequently promoting their de livelihoods to desirable levels.

## **2.4 Importance of Land Reform and Resettlement Programme**

There is a link between land access and poverty reduction (Deininger & Squire, 1998, as cited in Dikgang & Muchapondwa, 2016). In response to rural poverty, numerous countries around the world, both rich and poor, have implemented land and agrarian reform over the past century (Vista et al., 2011). According to Dikgang and Muchapondwa (2016), there is a strong and positive correlation between access to land and welfare-generation potential for beneficiaries, especially in rural areas. Combating rural poverty by providing greater access to land for poor households in developing countries is becoming increasingly common as inequality in the distribution of production inputs increases, especially agricultural land seems to be the main cause of rural poverty.

According to Zeleke and Asfaw (2014) the livelihood status of resettled farmers improves in some proxies of livelihood assets. The resettlement programme positively contributes to people's financial capital by improving their annual income status. Furthermore, the resettlement programme helps the settlers to strengthen their social capital through local social networks or with help of local institutions; the livestock production reaches promising status to help settlers to build their physical capital; sense of ownership can be obtained as resettled farmers move from being wage earners to being self-employed. Agrarian reform enhances the feeling of tenure security and a sense of well-being among the beneficiaries. It also transforms rural life in the village from being a highly rigid workplace, to a more relaxed environment (Vista et al., 2011). The land together with other assets gives the farmers many livelihood options which they can diversify through strategies determined by economic and social circumstances and activities employed (Marceline, 2016).

Werner and Odendaal (2010) point out that economic productivity on farms that changed hands under the country's land reform programme can be considerably increased if beneficiaries are given more support. Lahiff (2014) furthermore, described the effectiveness of the Zimbabwe land reform due to the high level of support farmers could get from their government.

## **2.5 Possible challenges of a Resettlement Programme**

### ***2.5.1 Small Farm Size***

Among the issues that normally concern resettled farmers is the issue of farm size, that is the Unit Resettlement Scheme (URS) of the redistributive land reform. The URS entails acquiring and subdividing large-scale commercial farms, and allocating small portions or units to individual beneficiaries (Werner & Odendaal, 2010). The Land Advisory Commission recommended that the units allocated to individuals should not be smaller than 3000 hectares in the more arid southern (comprising of Hardap and //Karas) regions. Farm sizes should range from 5000 hectares in the best grazing areas to 8000 hectares in more arid areas (NAU, 2005). Similarly, evidence shows a direct relationship exists between farm size and efficiency in sheep farming in the Karoo and in cattle ranching in North-western Transvaal (Van Zyl, Kirksten & Binswanger 1996).

Evidence shows that small farms face a number of obstacles to sustain themselves as well as the owner's livelihood (Nowakowski, 2018). Small farms battle a changing climate, within more spells of drought as well as more intense storms and rain. Large farms have more open choices of saving certain areas for future challenges for which is impossible with small farms. Limited

farming space on the other hand forces farmers to sell their animals when markets are glutted and prices are low. Compared to smaller farms, large farms have better access to markets, information and capital that will often be better to take advantage of any price gains. Small farms further have difficulties in accessing services and credit means that help them secure infrastructure. Lack of proper storage facilities and capital does not allow small farms to store feed and other necessities that will assist them in difficult times and take advantage of higher prices by expanding production.

Although land farm size is a very crucial factor as far as the issue of livelihood security is concerned, hundreds of millions of small-scale farmers in other countries (such as Japan, China and elsewhere in Asia) argue that farm size is not the key determinant of productivity (Carr, 2013). Lipton (2009) supports this argument as he testifies that large farms in China, divided into small family size farms have demonstrated their efficiency, including capacity to supply products into modern supermarket systems. Carr (2013) further argues that the key to successful farming does not always depend on the size of the land but the access to farm inputs. Moreover, success on farm output largely depends upon the availability of subsidies. Carr's (2013) argument indicates that large-scale or small-scale is not really a crucial issue for the future of African agriculture but rather access by farmers to intensifying inputs irrespective of the size of their farms.

### ***2.5.2 Drought and Climate Change***

Farmer's livelihoods are fundamentally affected by shocks and seasonality and one such shock is drought. According to Garrard, Heys, Pfaffenthaler and Schnider, (2017), agricultural drought refers to the poor condition of the natural vegetation available for grazing as a result of lack or low rainfall. It further refers to the situation whereby average or better rainfall occurred, but the rain fell too early or too late to be of value during optimal grazing season. Literature shows that drought and flood are closely intertwined with climate change and can affect agriculture and livelihoods in ways that include total failure or reduced harvest and severe livestock deaths (Elum, Modise & Marr, 2016). For agricultural activities, drought remains a major threat to food security, poverty and sustainable development (Kahinda & Taigbemu, 2011). According to Namibia Institute for Democracy (NID), (2010) Namibia will be particularly affected by global climate change until 2030 as decline in rainfall of up to 25% is predicted, especially for the south, with growing seasonal irregularity and high fluctuations between individual years. Thus, commercially oriented farmers should only stock their farms at 75%-80% of the recommended carrying capacity in order to maintain grazing reserves in the event of drought. Werner and Odendaal (2010) found out that in the Hardap region, farmers find it difficult to get full production as drought reduces their land's carrying capacity and water availability. Other research done in other countries such as the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa claim that drought caused environmental degradation, and farmers experienced high levels of poverty, low standards of living, and poor household economies (Elum, Modise & Marr, 2017).

As a coping strategy to drought and climate change, farmers can adopt Climate Change Adaptation (CCA). CCA is an accepted term and refers to the farmer's capacity to deal with

climate change challenges by changing and adapting lifestyles, farming practices and overall land use to address the expected changes. According to Integrated Environmental Consultants Namibia (IECN), adaptation aims at reducing vulnerability and improving the capacity of people to adapt, especially those who rely on agriculture for their livelihoods. Generally it is believed that without adaptation, living conditions will degrade severely, while with good adaptation strategies, prosperous lives can be achieved even under the difficult climatic conditions expected. Some adaptation options could be that farmers select and farm with species that are adapted to warmer and drier climates.

Baudoin, Vogel, Nortjie and Naik (2018) suggest that effective early warnings in order to mitigate drought impacts through preparedness and response, an operational, effective early warning system by Namibia Meteorological office including community development agencies is required as a coping strategy for farmers. According to these researchers, predicted weather information should be made accessible, disseminated and communicated in such a way that decision makers, role players and stakeholders are able to use it to mitigate and reduce risk, and even respond to drought situations.

Farmers may also use alternative coping strategies. According to Holden and Ghebru (2016), coping strategies may hierarchically range from daily labour, migration, selling animals, selling firewood, selling household assets, looking for aid, reducing consumption and renting out land for cash.

### ***2.5.3 Lack of knowledge, skills and support***

Resettled farmers went through a life changing process from having been communal farmers to now resettled farmers in commercial farming setups and during this period of change new information, skills and adaptation is of vital importance. As a result of change, farmers may experience insecurity, unknown problems and debt that have no room for losses (Hooft, Wollen & Bhandari, 2012). Although farmers already have a lot of knowledge about their current farming system, it does not necessarily mean that their current knowledge is applicable to their new settlement areas. The farmer will lack knowledge of various kinds such as technical skills to operate unfamiliar equipment, organizational skills to manage a farm, lack of skills to assess the economic aspects of farming, lack of skills for keeping records and allocating the use of farm resources and equipment. Lack of knowledge and skills further does not allow farmers to realise the need to form organizations such as farmers' associations to represent their interests and to give them means for taking collective action. Equally important is the lack of knowledge and skills amongst farmers which tend to let them believe that they cannot do things for themselves, that they can make decisions and have the ability to break out of their poverty. Resettled farmers as such can make wise decisions about their problems if they are given full information including possible alternative solutions. Knowledge and skills as part of human capital enable farmers to employ strategies to achieve farming objectives (Marceline, 2016). Therefore, lack of it does not allow farmers to intensify the production of their traditional staples and help the household more easily to meet its subsistence needs and produce a saleable surplus.

Recently there has been increasing empirical interests in ignorance for 'social learning' or 'learning from others'. Social learning plays a significant role in agriculture because if for

example new technology skill is taught to a small number of farmers, it can diffuse to other farmers through social networks (Nakano, Tsusaka, Aida & Pede (2018). Another challenge could be lack of training in ‘soft skills’, and integrated approaches essential for a more sustainable and resilient agriculture (Bjorkhaug & Knickel, 2017). Davis (2009) is of the opinion that farmers need access to new technologies and management options in those areas where climate change renders their current farming systems inviable. In support of this view, Davis (2009) also argues that today’s understanding of extension services , as a supporting agency, goes beyond technology transfer to facilitation, beyond training and learning, and includes helping farmers form groups, deal with marketing issues and partner with a broad range of service and other agencies.

The literature indicates lack of post-settlement support (PSS) as one of the crucial challenges experienced by resettled farmers (Lahiff, 2007; Werner & Odendaal, 2010). According to Werner and Odendaal, economic productivity on farms that changed hands as a result of sales under the country’s land reform programme can be considerably increased if beneficiaries are given more support. The support refers to allowing farmers to enjoy favourable repayment rates on their bank loans and also receive additional financial assistance and support services to develop infrastructure for their farming activities. The literature (Werner and Odendaal, 2010) further indicates that resettlement beneficiaries who are allocated land with infrastructure that do not suffice to enable them to farm successfully, for example, no boundary fences, no internal camps and lack or no boreholes find it difficult to do their farming successfully. Development and improvement of roads and communication infrastructure will not only make the farmer’s life easier but also save in transport to market their animals. Clover and Ericson (2009) identify

confused, weak and sometimes corrupt systems of land administrative as some of the obstacles to land distribution.

## **2.6 Summary**

This chapter presented a conceptual and theoretical framework as tools for analysing the LRRP's contribution to sustainable livelihoods of small-scale commercial farmers in Mariental Rural Constituency of the Hardap Region. The chapter further defined concepts such as Resettlement and Sustainable Livelihood and their importance towards LRRP. Lastly, the chapter reviewed different challenges faced by resettled farmers and how these challenges affect LRRP. The next chapter outlines and describes the research methodology used in this study.

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Research Design**

The study used a case study design of a qualitative approach to capture the reality of the small-scale livestock commercial farmers' lived experiences and thoughts about the resettlement programme, its intended purpose and benefits to them. The research is based on a case study of small-scale commercial farmers in Mariental Rural Constituency of the Hardap Region. The researcher opted for a case study as it is recommended by Kumar (2014) to be the best for exploring areas where little is known or where researchers want to have a holistic understanding of the phenomenon, situation, site, group or community. According to Kumar (2014) the advantage of a case study design is that the research can be much more detailed than would be possible if one is studying a large sample, but the corresponding disadvantage is that it is much more difficult and often impossible to generalize the findings. Within the interpretivist paradigm a case study provided the researcher with in-depth and comprehensive understanding of the contribution of the resettlement programme on farmer's livelihoods. As a trained farmer, the researcher chose qualitative approach as it allowed him to empathically use a language with farmers which enhance a deeper understanding and communication for in depth collection of data. Salkind, (2014) describes qualitative research as a social or behavioural science that explores the process that underlie human behaviour using exploratory techniques such as interviews, surveys, observation and other relatively personal techniques. Qualitative research as such, helped the researcher to get information on why and how land reform's resettlement

programme affects livelihoods of resettled small-scale livestock commercial farmers in Mariental Rural Constituency.

### **3.2 Population**

The population of the study was the commercial farmers who are resettled on single units and farm with small-scale livestock in Mariental Rural Constituency. According to Bless and Higson-Smith (2000), population is defined as the set of objects or people which is the focus of the research and about which the researcher wants to determine some characteristics. Mouton (2009) emphasizes the fact that the population is a collection or set of elements referred to as the population elements, which meet a certain definition or specification.

### **3.3 Sample and Sampling procedure**

The purposive and convenience techniques of a non-probability sampling were used to select the site and participants of the study. The purposive sampling was considered based on the researcher's judgement as to who could provide the relevant information to achieve the objectives of the study. The idea was to engage those farmers that had the required information and are willing to share the information with the researcher. With the assistance of the Chief Development Planner in the Ministry of Land Reform Office (Hardap Region) small-scale livestock commercial farmers resettled for more than five years were purposely identified from which 10 of them were conveniently sampled. Convenience sampling was done through choosing farmers whose units were possible to access during the rainy season for data collection and continued the process until the required sample size has been obtained. The convenience

sampling strategy was considered due to bad roads as a result of rainy conditions at the time of data collection.

### **3.4 Research Instruments**

Primary data required for this study was collected by means of semi-structured interviews (see appendix A for Semi-structured interview questions) and observation (see appendix B for Observation checklist). According to Babbie and Mouton (2001), a semi structured interview gives in depth and meaningful information as it allows the interviewee to talk freely although questions have some structure. The interviewer had some themes and questions to guide the process in order to cover all areas during the interview. One-on-one interviews were conducted to collect data on farmer's demographic information, how they view and understand the resettlement programme, where they lived and what assets they had before they were resettled as compared to what they have accumulated after resettlement, challenges faced, and kind of support given and needed. Interview data was recorded by means of audio recording and field notes. Observation was done to record information about farmer's daily practical activities, state of infrastructure as well farm animals. According to Kumar (2014) observation is a purposeful, systematic and selective way of watching and listening to interaction or phenomenon as it takes place. The researcher was a non-participant observer as he did not actively participate in activities of participants. He only listened and watched the farmer's activities and did the recordings.

### **3.5 Data Analysis**

The researcher used the inductive approach and content analysis method to analyse data. The inductive approach allowed the researcher to develop theory from the data and the content analysis defined a systematic set of procedures for the rigorous analysis, examination and verification of the data contents. The researcher first transcribed the interview data; went through written transcripts; did coding and marked the underlying ideas in the data text. Ideas were then grouped together in categories of similarities, and themes were then labelled and defined in relation to research questions. Judgement about observed events, were entered into a continuum rating scale. Data from the observations were turned into themes, analysed and presented. The triangulation of interviews, observations and reading of literature informed the interpretation and discussion of findings.

### **3.6. Research Ethics**

Prior to starting the actual data collection, the researcher obtained a letter of clearance from the University's School of Postgraduate Studies, and Research and Publications Office (see appendix A). The letter served as evidence that the study is ethically cleared and the rights of human research participants would be protected. The ethical clearance letter was also used to seek permission from the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Land Reform (see appendix C), the Director of Land Reform in Hardap region as well as from the Programme and Extension officers. Participants who were able to read and write were asked to sign consent forms (see appendix D) and those who were unable to read and write were required to make oral consent that was recorded. Participants were then assured of confidentiality, voluntary participation and

the right to withdraw at any time from the study. In addition, anonymity was assured by removing all identifying data prior to publication and, where an individual may be identifiable, explicit consent was obtained before any publication proceeds. Respondents were protected from harm by ensuring that all research activities could not lead to physical or mental harm. They were protected from physical harm by ensuring that interviews and observation sessions were conducted free of physical risk. To avoid mental harm, the researcher refrained from evoking stressful reactions in participants. This was done by creating and maintaining humane rapport during data collection. The data will be safely kept and discarded after five years.

### **3.7 Summary**

This chapter outlined the methodology of the study. The research design, population, sample and sampling, data collection instruments as well as data analysis methods were described. The chapter at the end described the ethical consideration taken during the study. The next chapter outlines the research results and discussion of the study.

## CHAPTER 4

### DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

#### 4.1 Introduction

This study investigated the contribution of Land Reform and Resettlement Programme (LRRP) on sustainable livelihoods of small-scale livestock commercial farmers in Mariental Rural Constituency of Hardap Region. Firstly the chapter describes the biographical information of resettled small scale livestock farmers: age group, educational background, farming type, and household size. Secondly the chapter presents the results on how farmers understand the resettlement programme and their level of programme implementation. Thirdly the chapter shows the challenges faced by farmers, support needs and recommendations that farmers suggested to the government when resettling other farmers in future. Finally it outlines observation results that focused on livestock owned by farmers, condition of grazing camps, farm infrastructure and accommodation facilities

#### 4.2 Biographic information of the respondents

Table 1: Distribution of research group according to six biographical variables

<b>Item</b>	<b>Biographical data</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Sex</b>	<i>Male</i>	8	10
	Female	2	
<b>Age</b>	40-50	2	10
	51-60	4	

	61 and above	4	
<b>Education</b>	Primary	1	10
	<i>Secondary</i>	3	
	<i>Tertiary</i>	6	
<b>Farmer topology</b>	Full-time	6	10
	Part-time	4	
<b>Household size</b>	<10	8	10
	>10	2	
<b>Marital status</b>	Married	8	10
	Unmarried	1	
	Widowed	1	

Table 1 shows that the majority (8) of the respondents were male. This finding implies that women were not interested to apply for the resettlement programme. According to Werner and Odendaal (2010) the equitable gender balance criterion in the selection process to select more women for the programme is in place since 2007.

Concerning the age of the respondents, two were between 40 and 50 years of age, four were between 50 and 60 years of age and the other four were older than 60 years. The findings suggest that the majority of resettled farmers fall within the active working and more energetic class that will likely make a positive contribution to the programme. As far as respondents' marital status is concerned, majority (8) of the respondents were married while only two (2) were unmarried and one widower respectively. Considering agriculture as a male dominant practice, unmarried female farmers without male labour force might be challenged to attain an improved livelihood

status and success. In support of this argument, Mulaw (2010) argues that marital status has more impact in changing the livelihood status of a household.

The data in the table indicates that six (6) of the participants reached tertiary education level while three (3) had secondary education. Only one had primary education. This finding implies that the majority of respondents have the ability to understand and successfully implement the purpose of the resettlement programme. Education is important to the improvement of agricultural productivity as it opens the mind of the farmers to knowledge, gives them better methods of farming, keeps them abreast with changing innovations and ideas, and allows them to share experiences gained. Odoru-Ofori, Aboage and Acguaye (2014) reason that the level of education increase output and guarantees high return on agricultural productivities.

The data further indicates that respondents had on average larger household sizes ranging from eight (8) to ten (10). According to Dikgang and Muchapondwa (2016), larger households have enough labour to mobilize natural resources and the livestock production activity necessarily requires interaction and exploitation of the natural resources. Contrary, Mulaw (2010) argues that although having larger household sizes may have benefits of sharing different tasks because of available resources, feeding them all is another challenge.

Six (6) respondents were full time farmers while four (4) were part-time farmers. The fact that the majority of farmers were fulltime and resided on their farms indicates the possibility of them paying more attention to farming practices and better improved livelihood than their part-time counterparts. This hypothesis is supported by Werner and Odendaal's (2010) study's finding that while part-time farmers use their off-farm income streams to advance their livelihoods, fulltime farmers are able to purchase more livestock, spend more money on breeding bulls and therefore

increase the number of animals for improved livelihood. It should however be noted that the absence of viable alternatives for fulltime farmers, will make them vulnerable to external shocks such as drought.

### **4.3 Findings from the Interviews**

#### **4.3.1 Resettled farmers' understanding of the resettlement programme in terms of its purpose**

Participants were asked to explain how they came to know about the resettlement programme; their understanding of the programme and its purpose; reasons why they applied for the programme; their perceptions on whether the programme serves the purpose it was created for; and their feelings on the sufficiency of the allocated land for farming practices.

Participants were first asked to explain how they came to know about the resettlement programme. They indicated that through the media (radio and newspaper), friends, ministry officials and regional councillors as their source of information. The following were some of the respondents' expressions:

*"I cannot recall when it was, but I heard about the programme over the radio and newspaper"* (Respondent 1, February 19, 2018).

Another respondent added:

*"I heard about the programme through a friend who works at the Ministry of Land Reform"*. (Respondent 2, February 19, 2018).

When participants were asked to explain how they understood the resettlement programme, most (9) of them understood the programme as a measure of the government to give back the land to the rightful owners, and a remedial measure for addressing the historical imbalances of the past administration. Furthermore, respondents understood the programme as a strategy used by the government to give resettled farmers an opportunity to reduce pressure from communal areas to commercial farming set ups for the purpose of increasing production and improving livelihood. Respondents believed that increased production improved their livelihood and promoted better living standards. Land security tenure was an important factor to their understanding, the government offered them land they call their own. Respondents indicated that through the programme they were granted an opportunity to own farm land and have control over their production.

These reasons were clearly expressed in one respondent's words:

*"It has a big meaning as a farmer is given land with a certain number of hectares on which he can farm and take ownership..... and therefore it is a good programme for someone who does not have capital to buy his own farm. The programme gives a farmer privacy and ownership over the land and you can monitor and see who comes and leaves your farm.."*

*(Respondent 3, February 19, 2018).*

Another respondent was of the opinion that:

*"the resettlement programme to me means a way to reduce pressure on communal areas that are overcrowded. It also leads to better farming*

*because you have your own place that you can control. The resettlement programme does not mean that the farmer should sit and wait for the government for the assistance.”(Respondent 4, February 19, 2018).*

Another respondent also said that:

*“It means a lot in a sense that I am one of the veterans of the liberation struggle and I was fighting for land. The land was taken away from our forefathers, they were killed and land was taken without any compensation. Through this way government is taking back the land to the original owners through the resettlement programme” (Respondent 9, February 21, 2018)*

When participants were asked to give reasons why they applied for LRP, their responses showed that they applied for the programme as a means of gaining land to live on and farm. The majority (8) indicated that they were landless while the rest (2) wanted to become commercial farmers but lacked capacity to buy their own farms. One of the respondents said:

*“I never had the capacity to buy my own farm and the number of animals I had forced me to look for a place” (Respondent 5, February 19, 2018)*

Another respondent shared the same sentiment as she stated:

*“The reason why I wanted to be resettled was lack of grazing. I came from a communal area “Plateland” as they call it. In communal areas, the problem is that people who want to farm are getting more and more but*

*the farming area remains the same” (Respondent 9, February 21, 2018).*

Respondents were further asked to explain their perception on whether LRP serves the purpose it was created for or not. Seven (7) of the respondents showed mixed feelings and were also uncertain on whether the programme really serves its purpose or not as it is not accompanied by training. The following were some of their responses:

*“The programme could have served its purpose if resettled farmers were receiving training. Most of the people are not farmers but they apply for resettlement , given a piece of land although they have no idea of where to start with farming. As I am sitting here, I never received any training to date. I am only using my experience as former farm worker to make progress in my farming” (Respondent 3, February 22, 2018)*

However, there were respondents whose responses indicated that the programme serves its purpose.

*“ I make life out of farming as my salary is only supplementing my income from farming. I managed to send my children to university and I do pay their tuition fees from my farming income. I replaced the old infrastructure with new solar pumps and built a new house and also improved my town house. I bought all my cars with the money I generated through farming” (Respondent 7, February 19, 2018).*

Respondents were further asked to explain whether they felt that the allocated land were sufficient for their farming practices. The data indicated that on average, farmers were allocated 2420 hectares of land each and thus felt that the land allocated to them was very small and

insufficient. Respondents felt that the size of the land also served as a limiting factor for farming growth. One of them argued:

*“2300 hectares is totally not and it will never be enough. The subdivision of farms by the Ministry of Land and Resettlement into smaller portion is killing the farming as well as the production. The former owner of this farm successfully farmed on 10 000 hectares and made good progress. Now this farm is divided and given to four different people. What do you expect? Simply just chaos”*

(Respondent 9, February 21, 2018).

In support of this statement, another respondent said:

*“I was given 2000 hectares , and it is not enough. I even now received a letter from the Ministry of Land Reform that I must decrease my livestock as I am overstocked”* (Respondent 8, February 22, 2018)

Respondents further claimed how some of the allocated land was not productive. This claim is clear in one of the respondents' words:

*“I have 5000 hectares , but only 75% of this 5000 hectares is useable since there are more bare areas on the farm and no grass or vegetation can grow there. These bare areas limit the production”* (Respondent 1, February 19, 2018)

Desire to own productive farm land, having control over agricultural production and remedial measures to address past wrong doing were some of major aspects that shaped the farmers understanding on the programme. Although farmers do apply with an open conscious mind to the

programme, the findings show that the programme might not serve its purpose unless it was accompanied by training. The majority of farmers lack proper knowledge and skills upon resettlement and this might determine the success outcome of the programme. Results revealed that land allocated to beneficiaries was described as small and insufficient.

#### **4.3.2 To what extent do resettled farmers implement their understanding of the resettlement programme?**

Respondents were asked to explain the difference they felt they have made in the agricultural sector for community development. Most farmers described their activities and explained the way they valued and appreciated the resettlement programme.

Following were some of the participants' verbatim responses:

*“We contribute to the reduction of unemployment; contribute to GDP, economic growth and poverty alleviation in the country.*

*Poverty is alleviated as people and their extended families are employed by us, farmers. If you employ one person, he will be able to assist his extended family and others and that's how we alleviate poverty”.*

*(Respondent 9, February 21, 2018)*

*“the resettlement programme has the potential to take us out of poverty, provided it is well planned and executed. The programme made us contribute to food security and employment of many households.*

*Employment opportunities made many families of farm workers to afford taking their kids to schools which also guarantees improvement*

*of livelihoods in the future. Women empowerment is one such an important aspect promoted by the programme. Therefore, if more women are resettled, the contribution to food security will be huge.”*

(Respondent 8, February 21, 2018).

Participants were further asked to explain their perceptions on the improvement that they brought to the farmers community and agricultural sector at large. Their responses indicated aspects such as increased food production; economic growth and poverty alleviation; job creation and improved livelihoods; ownership of land; improved farming practices; becoming commercial farmers; and exploration of other resources on the farm from which farmers can generate income.

The following table presents the improvement aspects as well as respondents’ verbatim.

**Table 2: Improvement that the programme beneficiaries brought to the farmers’ community and the agricultural sector as a whole.**

<b>Improvement</b>	<b>Verbatim Responses</b>
Increased food production	<p><i>“Very big improvement. Farmers are meat producers and they supply the country with meat.”</i> (Respondent 3, February 19, 2018).</p> <p><i>“Yes, the very important thing is the mind change. We come to realize that we are responsible for the improvement of people’s livelihood in our country, thus become serious and work hard. We must produce food.”</i> (Respondent 4, February 19, 2018).</p>

<p>Economic growth and Poverty alleviation</p>	<p><i>“Resettlement beneficiaries contribute to the country’s economic growth and development. Farmers contribute to Gross Domestic Product. Poverty is reduced as farmers employ people as farm workers and pay them wages. If I employ one person, he will be able to assist his close and extended families, and that’s how I alleviate poverty in my community. (Respondent 8, February 22, 2018).</i></p> <p><i>“The resettlement programme has the potential to take us out of poverty, provided it is well planned and executed. Farmers contribute to food security and employment of many households. (Respondent 6, February 22, 2018).</i></p>
<p>Job creation and improved livelihoods</p>	<p><i>“Resettlement helps in employment creation, stability, makes parents to send their children to school and pay medical schemes for families. Most of the farm workers become shareholders of the business on the farm.” (Respondent 10, February 19, 2018).</i></p> <p><i>“A working farmer like me, became a fulltime farmer, employed other people on part-time basis, and thus created jobs. By becoming a fulltime farmer, I created space in my former job for young people to be employed. The programme is able to improve our livelihoods and take us out of poverty, provided that people</i></p>

	<p><i>are allocated sufficient land for farming activities” (Respondent 7, February 22, 2018).</i></p>
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When asked on their future plans and where they see themselves within ten years from now, seven (7) respondents had the intention of graduating into becoming successful commercial farmers who aim to buy their own farms and give resettlement farms back to the government for other landless Namibians to be resettled.

One respondent put it clear as he stated:

*“Ten years from now, my vision is to become one of the successful small livestock farmers. I am aiming to buy my own farm”*

(Respondent 4, February 19, 2018).

Another respondent shared the same sentiment:

*“My intention is to work hard, increase my number of animals, buy my own farm and create space for those that need to be resettled. It is in my view that us who are resettled now should move on and create space for those that also need to be resettled” (Respondent 9, February 21, 2018).*

Meanwhile three (3) of the respondents indicated that they wanted to stay put and improve what they had for better future. One respondent affirmed:

*“My long-term intention is to improve this farm to my satisfaction*

*and I don't think I will move anywhere else” (Respondent 5, February 19, 2018).*

Another respondent also stated that:

*“I will live a comfortable life after ten years as all my children will be done with their studies by that time. The initial idea is to retire from government employment and be at the farm and give farming attention. I would also like to join farming associations so that I learn from other farmers to better my farming activities” (Respondent 2, February 19, 2018).*

When respondents were asked to compare their farming activities and experiences before and after they were resettled, their responses were found to be in support with what they have been telling the researcher. Respondents' comparison indicated a significant improvement in their farming skill compared to the time before they were resettled.

*“I was a communal farmer first before the resettlement, and when I compare the manner in which I lost animals in the past as compared to now it has improved. After the resettlement I developed the control skill for farming and I realized tremendous growth” (Respondent 1, February 19, 2018).*

Another respondent stated:

*“Before the resettlement programme my livestock management skill was poor. After I was resettled I can allocate certain cows to a certain bull and be able to identify offspring. I even established better facilities as compared to when I was in communal areas” (Respondent 4, February 19, 2018).*

However, one respondent's explanation shows that he was better-off before he was resettled. He expressed himself as follows:

*“I would say that in communal areas, a farmer can expand and increase his number of animals because there is no grazing limits. Here on these allocated farming spaces the carrying capacity limits your farming growth, and the number of animals remains the same or even decreased. The limitation is huge”*

(Respondent 5, February 19, 2018).

Increased food production, poverty alleviation and improved livelihoods were described as some of the major contributions the resettled farmers made to the development of their communities and entire agricultural sector in the country. Significant improvements in farming skills were indicated to have improved among resettled farmers as compared to their period before they were resettled. The majority of the farmers further showed commitment to develop their allocated farms and graduate into full commercial farmers that will create room for more access to farm land.

#### **4.3.3 Assets and wealth accumulated by resettled farmers since resettlement**

The researcher asked participants to identify, describe and show assets that they accumulated after resettlement as a proof of the benefits accumulated from LRP. They were also asked to explain how the LRP impacted on their social life. The data shows that farmers accumulated many valuable assets since resettlement. Assets mentioned and observed by the researcher were

boreholes, solar systems, water pumping machines, houses, tractors and other vehicles, machinery and animal handling facilities.

One respondent explained:

*“I arrived on this farm with one old Nissan pick-up and currently own a new car, a tractor and another farm vehicle. I equipped two boreholes with solar systems. I built two houses one for the workers and one for myself. These are all valuable assets I constructed on this farm although we are not yet given a title deed officially”*

*(Respondent 9, February 21, 2018)*

Another respondent described the assets he accumulated:

*“I equipped my new house with a solar system, fridge and also bought two farm cars as well as a welding machine.”*

*(Respondent 3, February 19, 2018).*

One respondent also revealed that:

*“After I was resettled, I acquired a tractor and a farming vehicle. I also started collecting animal straining equipment necessary for farming. I also bought a new vehicle for my family.”*

*(Respondent 6, February 19, 2018).*

Respondents explained how and from where they got the ‘means’ of purchasing all assets. The following were some of their verbatim responses:

*“I make life out of farming as my salary only is supplementing my income from farming. I replaced the old infrastructure with new solar pumps built a new house and improved my town house.”*

*(Respondent 5, February 19, 2018).*

*“The accumulation of my assets was funded through the combination of resources. Income from farming is the main source. Nevertheless, I also used part of my salary and a loan from AgriBank. The AgriBank loan was mainly used to buy animals that in turn were sold to buy those assets and set up infrastructure” (Respondent 6, February 21, 2018)*

When participants were asked to explain how the LRP impacted on their social life, participants expressed mixed feelings on how the programmes impacted on their social lives. Those that are originally from the same region, on which they were resettled, confirmed the programme to have improved their social life by creating racial connections and tolerance between them and white commercial farmers as they became neighbours.

One participant’s expression was

*“The programme improved my social life. After being resettled I met new neighbours, some white farmers who became my mentors. We became friends and we assist each other on a daily basis. In the past it was very rare to get assistance from a white commercial farmer. I do learn a lot from my neighbours”*

(Respondent 2, February 19, 2018).

Another respondent shared the same sentiments:

*“The resettlement programme taught us how to work with each other and also to be tolerant. My animals are drinking at my neighbour’s borehole as mine is out of order. We are from different backgrounds. I am from the Northern part of the country and through the programme I learnt to farm with other Namibians in harmony. I freely attend events in my community such as funerals and weddings. In fact I should say we’ve become family and friends”*

(Respondent 9, February 21, 2018).

On the other hand, other respondent indicated that:

*“I am originally from the northern part of Namibia and my whole family is there. Now I am farming here in Hardap region. This has in fact disconnected Me from my family and as I told you even the cell phone reception here is very weak. I have to travel over a long distance when I have to attend to the funerals and wedding back home and this cost me a lot of money. The government must resettle people closer to their original places”*

(Respondent 8, February 21, 2018)

The findings show that resettled farmers in the Mariental Rural Constituency managed to accumulate key assets from farming that led to increased food sufficiency and improved

livelihoods. Accumulated assets such as vehicles and tractors were reported to have made life easier for beneficiaries and making them mobile. Evidence further show strong positive social connections built between white commercial farmers and newly resettled farmers. Through social connections, resettled farmers are mentored by experienced commercial farmers and this can lead to increased agricultural output.

#### **4.3.4 Challenges faced by the resettlement programme in maintaining the sustainable livelihood options of livestock resettled farmers**

Participants were asked to reflect on challenges they face as beneficiaries of the resettlement programme and also to indicate how they deal with these challenges. Participants mentioned lack of monitoring systems for illegal renting of allocated farm portions; lack of proper infrastructure; lack of title deeds and allotment letters; theft and predators; drought and lack of sufficient rainfall; small farm sizes; animal diseases; and the lengthy timeframe between the moment farms are advertised for resettlement and occupation by the beneficiaries.

With regard to lack of proper monitoring systems in place, one farmer indicated that:

*“Monitoring systems from the Ministry of Land Reform and resettlement  
Are not in place. For example, I equipped one borehole with my own funds  
but then my neighbours rent out their units to other people who use water  
from the same borehole. I would not want to stop him to use my water but  
then this whole situation creates conflicts between farmers.  
The other challenge is the border fences. If you happen to have a ‘never-mind*

*attitude neighbour' then it will be only you who keeps on fixing the fence. The system somehow does not force or encourage people to fix fences and look after the existing infrastructure found.*

*(Respondent 4, February 19, 2018).*

Other respondents shared the same sentiments with regard to infrastructure:

*"The other challenge that I had is the border fence between me and my neighbours. As a result I bought netting wire to keep the neighbours animals away from my grazing area." (Respondent 6, February 19, 2018*

*"Border fence is the biggest problem as this brings conflicts between farmers. Lack of border fences allows neighbouring farmers to graze in other farmers' camps" (Respondent 8, February 21, 2018).*

*"Another challenge that is also linked to this, is the internal camps that are not jackal proof. I was allocated a portion with no infrastructure at all. I had to get a loan from AgriBank to develop my place.*

*(Respondent 6, February 19, 2018)*

One of the respondents shared his fear on losing allocated land due to lack of necessary documents that would guarantee him ownership. Following is his verbatim words:

*"Up to now we are sitting without allotment letters and title deeds. It takes very long for one to get an allotment letter from the ministry. One is afraid to*

*develop the farm as you do not have an allotment letter and title deed, and might be asked to vacate the place any time after you have invested much on the farm” (Respondent 3, February 19, 2018).*

Predators were also viewed as one such challenge as one respondent indicated:

*“My challenge is that of predators – I had 80 sheep but now only left with a few” (Respondent 8, February 21, 2018).*

Lack of rain and drought was also identified as a challenge. In one respondent’s words:

*“The other challenge is the rain; the southern part is a drought area. We normally get rain in March onwards although sometimes earlier.” (Respondent 2, February 19, 2018).*

Small farm size was further regarded as another challenge for some respondents and following their verbatim responses:

*“2300 hectares was allocated to me and this is totally not and it will never be enough. The subdivision of farms by the MLR into smaller portions is killing farming and production. The former owner of this farm successfully farmed on 10 000 hectares and made good progress, now this farm is divided and given to four different people. How much production do you expect? Not much” (Respondent 9, February 21, 2018).*

*I got 3800 hectares but the carrying capacity of the area as well as the rain fall in this area is very low. I am only able to stock 80 animals at 75% stocking rate. One cannot survive with lower than 70 head of cattle. This farm size is extremely small in terms of production”*

*(Respondent 4, February 19, 2018).*

Another respondent also added that:

*The area is very small, because its carrying capacity is very low and this size does not allow a farmer to expand at all.*

*(Respondent 5, February 19, 2018).*

Animal diseases and the lengthy timeframe between the moment farms are advertised for resettlement and occupation by the beneficiaries were also regarded as challenges. One of respondents who complained about animal diseases stated:

*“Ahaa, the main challenges are animal diseases, there is no nearby veterinary office to call for assistance when an animal gets sick”.*

*(Respondent 1, February 19, 2018).*

Another respondent whose concern was on the lengthy timeframe alluded:

*“The other problem is the timeframe between the advertisements and taking over by beneficiaries, it is too long to such an extent that when the beneficiary comes to take over the allocated piece of land, the infrastructure are either vandalized and damaged. The Ministry of land does not take care of the properties*

*on farms before the allocation. Sometimes the previous owners from whom the farms were bought come back, vandalize the infrastructure and steal properties from the farms that were bought from them". (Respondent 8, February 21, 2018).*

The findings display that the resettlement programme in Mariental Rural Constituency is faced with challenges such as lack of monitoring systems for illegal renting of allocated farm portions; poor dilapidated infrastructure, lack of title deeds, lack of rain and frequent drought, small farm sizes, animal diseases and the lengthy timeframe between the moment farms are advertised for resettlement and occupation by the beneficiaries. Results show lack of title deeds may result in inadequate investment in infrastructure which is much for enhancement of livelihood improvement. Farmers may be hesitant to invest in developing property they don't legally own. Furthermore, animal losses due to theft, predators and animal diseases affect the farmer's progress and their livelihoods in general.

#### **4.3.5 How resettled farmers deal with the challenges**

Participants were asked to indicate on how they try to deal with challenges they face as resettled farmers. With regard to lack of proper infrastructure, respondents said that they buy wires to fix wire lines and border fences. One such farmer indicated that he spent a lot of money in order to put up infrastructure such as kraals, crush pens for the proper handling of animals.

Following was his verbatim response:

*Since I was allocated a portion with no infrastructure at all,*

*I had to spend a lot of money in order to put up infrastructure such as Kraal, or crush pens for the animals. At least for now I got a loan from Agribank which is N\$250 000.00. Of course this is not enough as I have to divide the money between erecting infrastructure, and buying and taking care of livestock, etc.” (Respondent 6, February 19, 2018)*

About drought and insufficient rainfall challenge, respondents explained that they survive through buying extra feed and supplements for the survival of their animals.

One respondent indicated that:

*“The dry bare patches affect the growth of the grass. The absence of rain brings a crisis. We survive only through buying feed for animals. I think if we perhaps get support from the government, it could be better”*

*(Respondent 3, February 19, 2018).*

Animal diseases and parasites were overcome by immunizing animals and applying natural and indigenous medicinal plants.

Following was one respondent’s words:

*“The way we try to overcome disease, we try to immunize animals Against diseases and parasites.” (Respondent 8, February 22, 2018).*

Another respondent expressed the same idea:

*“Ahaa, there is no nearby veterinary office to consult and or call for assistance in case of a sick animal. Therefore, we try by*

*all means to buy preventative as well as treatment medicine for sick animals.*

*We also use natural or traditional medicine to treat our sick animals”*

*(Respondent 7, February 22, 2018).*

With regard to the lack of monitoring systems for illegal renting of allocated farm portions, respondents indicated that their neighbours illegally rent out their allocated portions although they are expected to use common water points. This concern is clear in one of the respondents' words:

*‘I wrote a letter to the Ministry of Land Reform as for them to organize*

*a meeting to discuss the problem of my neighbour renting out his portion.*

*This is because it creates a problem with his lessors. Maybe my neighbours don't want to farm. We are three farmers resettled on 5000 hectares and his land can*

*be taken and be divided between us.” ((Respondent 3, February 19, 2018).*

Concerning lack of title deeds and allotment letters beneficiaries claimed that they try to engage the MLR for the allocation of allotment letters to them. However, they did not get feedback on their requests. This assertion is clear in one of the respondents' words:

*“We wrote letters to the Ministry to request for the title deeds and allotment letters as they are important for any loan application. Furthermore we try to raise this issue in different meetings with our regional councillors. Farmers do complain as a result but complaints don't get any instant attention and no feedback is received.” ((Respondent 1, February 19, 2018).*

Theft and predators are regarded as major challenges that lead to major losses of animals in Southern Namibia. Farmers describe these losses mainly due to lack of proper infrastructure to control predators. Following are one such farmer's own words:

*“Challenges are predators – I had 80 sheep but now only left with few. Border fences is the biggest problem as this brings conflicts between farmers and allows the passing of predators from one camp to another. Lack of border fences let the neighbour’s animals to graze in other people’s camps. To try and solve this problems, we try to do it ourselves like buying own fences to close border fences with jackal proof fences. We wrote several letters to the Ministry as for them to assist us but this takes long. (Respondent 6, February 22, 2018).*

With regard to small farm size, respondents indicated that small farms serve as a limiting factor for their production and MLR should consider increasing the number of hectares allocated.

Following was one respondent’s words:

*“What I expect from the Ministry is for them to resize our farms so that everybody could get a bigger farm size. I know that I should appreciate the little that I have as I cannot afford to buy my own farm as they are very expensive. So, if the government could give us bigger farms it could be better”.*  
*(Respondent 8, February 22, 2018).*

The lengthy timeframe between the moment farms are advertised for resettlement and occupation by the beneficiaries was identified as one such challenge and respondents suggested that:

*What I mean is that the previous owners from whom the farms were bought normally comes back to steal some of the infrastructure and properties that was paid for. The ideal process is that the previous owner should not*

*be allowed to come back to the farm again and in fact there should be an inventory in place. I also know that they are hiring guards, and to me these are the same people that are stealing. (Respondent 8, February 21, 2018).*

Methods and mechanisms the respondents use to address challenges they faced as resettled farmers were setting up proper infrastructure; investments that were redirected towards improvements instead of broadening and diversifying the scope of livelihoods; small land size and poor insufficient grazing areas; and forcing beneficiaries to provide extra feed that negatively impact on their productivity and output. Furthermore, due to small grazing areas farmers were forced to sell their animals sooner than the probable time when the markets are glutted and prices are low. No of title deeds and illegal renting of allocated portions came out strongly and beneficiaries tried to engage the MLR through writing letters, but no feedback was received. Communication breakdown or the poor flow of information seems a regular occurrence and farmers claim that MLR developed a habit of not responding to their queries.

#### **4.3.6 Support needed by the resettled farmers**

Participants were also asked to suggest the support that they would like to receive for their effective farming as well as what they would like the government to consider when implementing the resettlement programme in future. A number of support needs were mentioned: Financial support in form of *AgriBank* loans was indicated by almost all participants. Although almost all participants indicated to have received the financial support from *AgriBank*

but nevertheless, some farmers indicated that the given loans are never enough to cater for their farming needs.

One respondent remarked:

*“There is a programme with AgriBank to avail an amount of N\$200 000 for resettled farmers to acquire animals repair and construct infrastructure. This amount is not enough and it is my view that they should increase this amount to N\$500 000 or one million. This amount is so limited that you either choose between buying animals or repair infrastructure only. The MLR must really consider negotiating for higher amounts with AgriBank as farmers use this money as the basis of starting to farm in commercial area”*

*(Respondent 8, February 22, 2018).*

In addition to financial support participants mentioned infrastructure such as fences, water and houses with ablution facilities.

One respondent indicated that:

*“If I can get support to improve infrastructure, it will be very much appreciated. I did build a one bedroom house with toilet facilities and could only build a corrugated iron house for the workers. With our southern weather conditions it is not an appropriate accommodation for them. If one can get support to build houses for them with toilets, it will be good and that is what I suggest at the moment.”*

*(Respondent 1, February 19, 2018).*

Another respondent expressed the same sentiment by indicating that:

*“I need assistance with regard to renovation of camps. Specifically border fences as my animals cross into my neighbours grazing areas. Cross border grazing is not pleasant as it creates conflicts between neighbouring farmers. (Respondent 2, February 19, 2018).*

Furthermore, veterinary services, trainings, government subsidy and other agricultural inputs were also indicated as essential support needs.

One respondent stated that:

*“Veterinary services come very rare to us; I do approach their offices to seek clarity on certain programmes. In the past veterinary services were compelled to visit each farm to diagnose and monitor diseases; and at the same time teach and show farmers how to vaccinate their animals. These days trainings stopped completely and I don't know why. Follow-up trainings are very important to farmers for farming sustainability” (Respondent 2, February 19, 2018).*

Another respondent also stated the following with regard to training:

*“I did not receive any training at all, .... I wrote a letter to the Ministry of Land Reform and Resettlement requesting for a training. I did not*

*receive any feedback up to now. This is one of the problems within the ministry, they don't give any attention to our requests at all, even if there is an outbreak of a serious animal disease, the Ministry does not to give feedback" (Respondent 8, February 21, 2018).*

Farm title deed was also identified as one such support document that would assist farmers in obtaining loans from financial institutions in order to fund their farming activities.

One respondent suggested:

*"The best way to assist resettled farmers is to provide them with their Title Deeds that will give them collateral if they want to borrow money from financial institutions. I have been on this farm for eight years but no title deed up to now and support to me is very rare"*

*(Respondent 10, February 21, 2018).*

Concerning what the resettled farmers would like the government to consider when implementing the resettlement programme in future, the data revealed various suggestions: system to be put in place to verify whether the applicant is really interested in farming and able to make use of land productively; positive attitude of the MLR towards applicants whose intention is to improve their livelihood; training of newly resettled farmers; proper monitoring system by the MLR to curb misuse of resettled farms and make sure the that the farms are used for the purpose it was meant for; reduction of time frame between the buying of the farm by the government and the time before the resettled farmer takes over; security to take care for the

farms bought for resettlement until they are allocated to the resettled people; policy for preventing previous\_owners from accessing farms that bought; policy encouraging resettled farmers to form farmers associations for information sharing; assessment of resources (such as water availability and water suitability for human consumption) at farms before they are allocated to applicants; and upgrading of the farm infrastructure before the resettlement.

The following were some of the participants' verbatim recommendations:

*“Selecting farmers for resettlement should be strictly done in such a way that only applicants with the right attitude should be approved. An attitude of trying to achieve something in life rather than resettling those that come to idle on farms without doing anything. Some of farmers might have all documents required for resettlement but then their attitude and ability show that they are not farmers. I suggest that interviews, for example, should be conducted to identify the right people for the programme. I also suggest that the very important thing to do is to take the newly resettled farmers through a training course.*

(Respondent 5, February 19, 2018).

Another respondent recommended that:

*“After buying the farm for resettlement, the Ministry of LRR should put security in place that will take care of the farms. What happens is that the bought farm lies idle and empty for 3-4 years. Theft and destruction of infrastructure occur during this time.*

*By the time they resettle a person, then all infrastructure have been stolen and vandalized. The ministry should reduce the time between buying a farm for resettlement and the actual resettlement of people” (Respondent 6, February 19, 2018)*

With regard to water availability and fitness for human consumption, one respondent indicated that:

*“Before a person is resettled, the ministry should send out technical teams to assess and make sure that water is available and also assess its fitness for human consumption. Water needs to be fixed before any resettlement happens. (Respondent 3, February 19, 2018)*

Another respondent also shared her concerns on water suitability for human consumption as follows:

*“We are in an unfortunate situation as we are told that our water is not suitable for human consumption but only suitable for livestock. We are currently drinking this water although we are not sure about the effects it might have on us.”*

The support needs for effective farming indicated by resettled farmers are finance, proper infrastructure, veterinary services, training in farming skills, and title deeds. Beneficiaries were allocated farms with infrastructure that did not suffice to enable them to farm successfully. Most pressing of all issues, was that farmers loose animals as a result of predators and theft due to lack

of boundary and internal fences. Some beneficiaries do not have their own boreholes and therefore have to share water with neighbours, which lead to conflicts between farmers. Furthermore, water on certain farms was described as unfit for human consumption and this might affect the beneficiaries' health status. Respondents further suggested that government should take security measures on acquired farms as this leads to vandalism before anyone is allocated the farm.

#### 4.4 Findings from Observation

The researcher used personal observations to assess and describe farmers' farming practices as well as the condition of the infrastructure on resettled farms. Observation was used to triangulate the findings from the interviews. Observations were done on the number and physical appearance of livestock, methods of grazing, and condition of farm facilities.

**Table 3: Observation**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Observed items</b>	<b>Description of condition</b>
Livestock	Goats, Sheep and Cattle	Eight (8) farmers' animals were castrated, dehorned and provided with necessary licks. Meanwhile, animals of two (2) farmers were observed with horns, and small stock kraals were full of manure that could

		<p>cause health problems. In addition, nine (9) farmer's animals looked healthy and no signs of diseases could be observed. One farmer's animals were observed as affected by internal parasites as they were thin, weak and showed rough hair coat.</p>
Infrastructure	Animal handling facilities and tools such Kraals, fences and crush pens.	Results showed that six (6) farmers' animal handling infrastructure were in usable conditions while four (4) farmer's infrastructure were in bad and dilapidated conditions.
Grazing	Land with roughages (grass) and eatable bushes	Four (4) farmers had enough to moderate grazing and practiced good rangeland management. Meanwhile, six (6) farmers had poor grazing for their livestock. Good to moderate rangeland management practices as some camps were saved for future grazing while other farmers grazed all camps at once.
Accommodation facilities	Farm houses, workers houses and feed storage facilities	Accommodation facilities results showed that four (4) farmers had houses in good condition with running water and

		sanitary facilities while six (6) farmer's houses were in moderate to poor conditions with either little or no running water at all.
Mobile signal	Cell phone reception and fixed telephones	Six (6) farmers had mobile signal for communication while four (4) had moderate reception to none.
Transport	Vehicles and donkey/ horse cart	The results further indicate that six (6) farmers had their own transport while four (4) had little access to transportation.
Electrical power	Houses equipped with Solar panels; boreholes	It further showed that six (6) farmers' houses are provided with either solar power system or generator power. Four (4) farmers had no access to electrical power.
Farming equipment	Tractors, welding machines, water pumping equipment, and other usable tools.	Results showed that six (6) farmers' infrastructure were in usable conditions while four (4) farmer's infrastructure were in bad and dilapidated conditions.

## 4.5 Summary

The findings from the interview show that the resettled farmers' understanding of the resettlement programme is in line with the purpose of the programme which is to bring about more equitable land distribution and access to people, and promote sustainable economic growth of the country. Participants understand the resettlement programme's aim as to contribute to poverty reduction, increased food security, and employment creation. Furthermore, respondents claimed with confidence that they were better-off than before they were resettled as accumulation of livelihood assets were evident through the programme implementation.

The findings further revealed that effective achievement of the programme implementation was hampered by lack of training and support to newly resettled farmers. In addition, the resettlement programme was challenged by lack of proper infrastructure; theft and predators; drought and lack of sufficient rainfall; lack of monitoring systems; lack of allotment letters; illegal renting of allocated farm portions; water problems; small farm sizes and the lengthy timeframe between the moment farms are advertised for resettlement and occupation by the beneficiaries.

The findings showed that support needs, such as financial support, trainings, infrastructure development, veterinary services, subsidies on production inputs and the use of farms as collateral for bank loans are the core for the success of the programme. The findings from the observations revealed that physical appearance of livestock, methods of grazing, and farm facilities of 60% of farmers were doing better while accommodation facilities of the majority of the respondents were not in a desirable state. These findings are discussed in the next chapter, Chapter

## CHAPTER 5

### DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the discussion of findings, conclusions and recommendations. It will also justify how the study results addressed the research questions.

The aim of the study was to investigate the contribution of the Land Reform and Resettlement Programme on sustainable livelihoods of small-scale commercial farmers in Mariental Rural Constituency of Hardap Region. In order to attain the research aims and objectives, the study was guided by the following research questions:

1. What is the resettled farmers' understanding of the resettlement programme in terms of its purpose in the Mariental Rural Constituency?
2. To what extent do resettled farmers implement their understanding of the resettlement programme?
3. What assets and wealth are accumulated by resettled farmers since the implementation of the resettlement programme?
4. What challenges are faced by the resettlement farmers in the programme in maintaining sustainable livelihood options of livestock resettled farmers?
5. How do the resettled farmers deal with the challenges to maintain sustainable livelihood options?

## **5.2 Discussion of findings**

### **5.2.1 Resettled farmers' understanding of the resettlement programme in terms of its purpose.**

The primary objective of land reform in Namibia was to address injustices which large scale land dispossession had brought about, and to reduce poverty and inequality (Werner & Odendaal, 2010). The study reveals that most of the respondents showed common understanding on the purpose of resettlement programme. Their understanding on the purpose of resettlement programme could clearly be observed through motives and reasons why they applied to be resettled. Almost all respondents applied for the reasons of owning farm land; land and space they can call their own. This gave them security and sense of ownership.

One such farmer indicated that he was granted an opportunity to own a farm as he grew up in communal area and had no control over his farming production. Another farmer also indicated that he appreciates the gesture from government as he always wanted to own a farm but unfortunately had no capital to buy one. Farmers motivational push factors in this case be used to analyse their broad understanding of the resettlement programme. They indicated clearly that most of them wanted to buy their own farms but were short of capital. This implies that except the resettlement and other current land reform programmes, much capital should be made available through other means that will cater for the needs of communal farmers for them to be able to buy their own farms. The study clearly reveal the farmers wish to leave communal areas and own commercial farms. The process will ease the burden in communal areas, create more space and improve livelihoods of those that remain on the land as well as those that leave to commercial farms.

The study further revealed that none of the resettled farmers were provided with title deeds while some could however indicate to have received allotment letters only. This will result in inadequate investment in infrastructure which is much needed for enhancement of livelihood improvements. Similarly, this is supported by Buumba (2013) that tenure security can facilitate infrastructure development service provision and economic development. Additionally, DFID (2003) contends that if property rights are not secure, the vulnerability of household increases and will influence their livelihood strategies.

### **5.2.2 The extent to which resettled farmers implement their understanding of the resettlement programme.**

Implementation of farmers' understanding about the programme is evident through successes they deliver despite huge challenges faced. Meanwhile, the study revealed that majority (9) beneficiaries are educated and therefore have the ability to source information and acquire the understanding to tackle the challenges they might face.

In response to influences that the programme beneficiaries could bring about to the agricultural sector, respondents described the following as major contributions: Firstly, increased food production that can be possible through positive mind change and hard work. Secondly, economic growth and poverty alleviation as resettled farmers do contribute to the countries' GDP through tax payments and at the same time poverty alleviation through increased livelihoods. Finally, job creation and improved livelihoods as resettled farmers create jobs at local as well as national level.

Mulaw (2010) suggested key principles that will aid in the success of resettlement programmes. It is suggested that beneficiaries with the assistance of MLR should implement the following key principles and approaches to realize the intended outcomes:

**Table 4: Summary of key principles to the success of the resettlement programme**

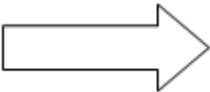
<b>Key principle</b>	<b>The rationale behind the principle</b>
Voluntarism	Relocation should be voluntary in order for it to be successful.
Self-help	To reinforce local initiative and change the attitude of dependency.
Transparency	Adherence to the rules, full and active information between the beneficiaries and the authorities.
Development process	To assist the food insecure households improve their livelihood apart from food security.
Income and employment creation	It focuses mainly on agricultural activities and off-farm activities.
Minimum infrastructure	To establish services which is at least similar to the original area.

Source: *Adapted from Mulaw, 2010*

### 5.2.3 Assets and wealth derived from implementation of the resettlement programme

The study assessed asset accumulation after resettlement programme to help analyse the contribution of the programme on livelihoods of farmers. Findings show that the farmers accumulated assets since they were resettled. One respondent claimed that “After I was resettled, I acquired a tractor and a farming vehicle. I also started collecting animal straining equipment necessary for farming. I also bought a new vehicle for my family.” It is evident that most of them proudly appreciated the programme as it assisted them in gaining assets they never had before they were resettled. Asset accumulation allows survival and adaptation strategies for resettled farmers which improve the quality of life as well as enhance coping strategies for farmers (Mulaw, 2010). In order to contextualize and put this into perspective, the researcher summarized the trend (see figure 3) that will show the effects of the resettlement programme and how farmers improved their livelihoods.

**Figure 3: Sustainable livelihood outcomes as result of resettlement**

Livelihood assets	Outcome of shocks	Solution		Livelihood outcomes
	Before resettlement	Resettlement programme		
Natural capital	Lack of farm land Overcrowded communal areas Food insecurity Low agricultural output Land ownership	Resettlement programme		Access to farm land Food security Improved agricultural output Land security tenure

Human capital	<p>Less access to education</p> <p>Less access to service provision</p> <p>Limited labour</p>			<p>Improved education for children</p> <p>Improved access to service providers</p> <p>Improved labour</p>
Physical capital	<p>Lack of transport</p> <p>Lack of proper housing</p> <p>Less number of livestock</p>			<p>Better access to transport</p> <p>(Vehicles and Tractors)</p> <p>Better housing</p> <p>(Solar systems and running water)</p> <p>Improved number of livestock</p>
Financial capital	<p>Less access to cash</p> <p>Less access to loans</p>			<p>Improved income</p> <p>Improved access to financial services such as AgriBank</p>
Social capital	<p>Less level of social network</p> <p>Lack of employment</p>			<p>Improved relationships with neighbouring white commercial farmers</p> <p>Improved neighbourhood amongst resettled</p>

				farmers Improved mentoring Employment creation
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Source: *Adapted from Mulaw, 2010*

The central reason behind this study is to explore the effects of resettlement programme on beneficiaries in light of key livelihood assets accumulated. As a result, five categories of assets were then examined to assess the outcome of resettlement programme. These are natural capital, human capital, physical, financial and social capital. Thus it is elaborated as follows.

### ***5.2.3.1 Natural Capital***

Natural assets are defined as natural resource stocks from which resource flows useful for livelihoods are derived (Ellis, 2000). According to Buumba (2013), generally, natural assets include land, water, wildlife, biodiversity and environmental resources. For the sake of this study, land and water was regarded as the most important asset for farmer’s livelihoods. Marceline (2016) emphasized that land as a natural asset is interconnected with other assets in order to sustain shock and stresses of life. Furthermore, the importance of farm land as a natural asset cannot be ignored as it is the basis of resettled farmer’s livelihood. This is evident as one respondent alluded *“I do acknowledge the improvement of my life since I was resettled by managing to accumulate assets that I never had before. As far as I am concerned, the duty of the government was to give me land and the rest should be my duty to maintain and help myself. I can go to financial institution such as Agribank, borrow funds to buy and build what is needed*

*for the farm. This way I will assist the government to acquire more land and resettle more people which in turn will reduce poverty in the country.”*

The study further revealed that resettled farmers livelihood outcomes (see figure 3) were achieved through access to farm land which in turn led to improved agricultural production, food security and land security tenure. Almost all farmers interviewed indicated that their former farming areas were small in size as most of them were farming in communal areas. Allocated commercial farms led to increase in production, more control of farming activities and exploration of natural resources beyond farming.

#### ***5.2.3.2 Human capital***

Human capital refers to the labour available to the household, household education levels, skills possessed and their health status. The study reveals in figure 3 table 2, that the majority (9) respondents attained secondary as well as tertiary education. This shows that a large number of farmers may have access to written and available agricultural information that will assist them in increased production. According to Buumba (2013), the importance of education in enabling access to formal sources of agricultural knowledge is apparent, and people with no education had a reduced opportunity of contact with extension services. It is important to note that today's extension services go beyond technology transfer and considering the educational level of resettled farmers, it is expected to have slightly more improved livelihoods due to access of information pertaining to the wellbeing. Results further revealed that some resettled farmers invested better in their children's education levels as they could afford to take them to universities to further their education. Labour is one such important asset in agriculture and

mainly in programmes such as a resettlement programme. The study revealed that resettled farmers have on average 8 household members which add value to the labour factor of the production process. More labour is hired and as a result resettlement not only benefits the beneficiaries per say but also broadly contribute to the livelihoods of farm labourers and their extended families.

### ***5.2.3.3 Physical Capital***

Physical assets entail the basic infrastructure on farm level such as houses, usable tools, transport, roads, food stock and livestock, manufactured goods and communication facilities that will enable farmers to attain their livelihood outcomes. According to Marceline (2016), physical capital supports the farmers' enhancement of livelihoods through other socio-economic factors such as transport and communication, markets, schools and clinics. All respondents indicated successes brought about by the resettlement programme. Respondent 9 proudly mentioned his accumulation of assets as follows: *“I arrived on this farm with one old Nissan pick-up and currently own a new car and also a tractor and a farm vehicle. I equipped two boreholes with solar systems although I was unfortunate to be resettled on the unit with nothing on. I built two houses, one for the workers and one for myself. These are houses with showers, toilets, living rooms and a veranda. These are all valuable assets on this farm although we are not yet given a title deed officially”*

Furthermore, for most of the farmers, increase in livestock numbers was regarded as the most important physical aspect as it would mean more income for them. Increase in livestock numbers necessitated proper infrastructure that helped better production and control against theft and

predator losses. Livestock as physical assets allow resettled farmers to be in a better position to acquire loans from financial institution such as AgriBank as they can be used as collateral. Compared to communal areas, commercial farms offer them opportunity to exercise control over their livestock production.

#### ***5.2.3.4 Financial Capital***

Financial capital includes stocks of money such as savings and access to credit in form of loans which are essential for any household strategy Marceline (2016). According to Singh (2007) cited by Zeleke and Asfaw, (2014) financial capital is the most versatile among the five capitals of livelihood assets as it can be converted into other types of assets, or it can also be used to achieve livelihood outcomes directly.

The study shows that most farmers benefited from AgriBank loans to finance their farming activities. The study further reveals that although farmers appreciate the loan from AgriBank, it is their wish for these loans to be increased from the current N\$200, 000.00 to N\$1 Million dollars. Although these loans are aimed at acquiring livestock, farmers are forced to divert the use of it due to other challenges such as dilapidated infrastructure, drought and high input costs. It should be noted however, that access to credit service from AgriBank in the resettlement area is easier and better as compared to farmers in communal areas. This is due to the existing credit provision programme signed between MLR and AgriBank and it is also believed that there is better probability of repaying the loan in the resettlement area.

### ***5.2.3.5 Social Capital***

Social capital refers to the social networks and associations in which people participate, and from which they can derive support that contribute to their livelihoods (Zelege & Asfaw, 2014). The study shows that most of farmers confidently confirmed the programme to have improved their social life by creating racial connections and tolerance between them and white commercial farmers as they became neighbours. Neighbourhood did somehow force the white farmers to be tolerant and assist their co-farmers with necessary mentorship. Nevertheless, some of those farmers that are originally not from the southern part of the country, complained to had lost social connections with their families and their area of origin. This scenario also disconnected them to the social organizations such as churches, farmers associations as well as other associations. Long distances between their newly resettled farms and their area of origin also impact on their finances as they are required to travel long distances to attend to social gatherings such as funerals and weddings.

## **5.2.4 Challenges faced by the resettlement programme in maintaining the sustainable livelihood options of livestock resettled farmers**

### ***5.2.4.1 Small farm sizes***

Small farm sizes were one of the challenges strongly emphasized by the respondents. Their general feeling was that the land allocated to them was very small and insufficient. The study revealed that on average, beneficiaries allocated 2420 hectares of land. According to Werner and Odendaal (2010) small farms allocated to resettled farmers are as a result of URS. URS entails acquiring and subdividing large-scale commercial farms, and allocating small portions or units to

individual beneficiaries. According to NAU (2005) economic viable farm sizes should range from 5000 to 8000 hectares in more arid areas such as Hardap region. Moreover the Land Advisory Commission recommended that the units allocated to individuals should not be smaller than 3000 hectares. Despite the above mentioned recommendations and arguments, resettlement programme beneficiaries are allocated fewer hectares than anticipated.

The study reveals that the consequence of small farming units is economic unviability, limitation of growth in livestock numbers, inability to service loans and deterioration of grazing land. Livestock numbers are regarded as the core to success and very crucial physical capital. Resettled farmers though argue that the previous farms occupants farmed on 10 000 hectares and had better livelihoods. Similarly, farmer's views are supported by Werner and Odendaal (2010) that the small-scale farming model which was adopted for resettlement needs to be reviewed to establish whether it will achieve perceived objectives of land reform. According to them, the model in its current form is not likely to be economically and financially sustainable as allocated units are too small to generate sufficient income to sustain beneficiaries and finance depreciation and capital investment costs. In its current form the small-scale farming model will make the beneficiaries continue to depend on financial inputs from either MLR or other financial institutions to maintain and replace essential infrastructure.

The Neoclassical model moreover, emphasizes the relationship between farm size, returns to scale and efficiency (Zarin & Bujang, 1994). Farm size allows better competitiveness due to economies of scale as it reduces production costs and similarly technical innovations that mostly

favour large scale farms. In contrast, other scholars argue that farm size is not the key determinant factor to productivity. According to Carr (2013), successful farming does not always depend on the size of the land but the access to intensifying farm inputs. Based on Carr's argument farmers will at most time need government support with subsidies and also to resort to new technologies and new production concepts such as smart farming.

#### ***5.2.4.2 Drought and lack of sufficient rainfall***

Drought and lack of sufficient rainfall that results into poor grazing and lower carrying capacity was identified by the respondents as a challenge they face. The study area has arid climate, characterized by high summer temperatures and winter frosts, as well as low precipitations of 100-150mm on average but with a coefficient of variation of 0.66 among the highest in the world which results in frequent drought MAWF (2004). The study revealed that the consequence of poor rainfall is lower production as drought reduces their land's carrying capacity and water. According to Werner and Odendaal (2010), commercially oriented farmers should only stock their farms at 75% of the recommended carrying capacity in order to maintain grazing reserves in the event of drought. One such farmer was allocated 5000 hectares of which only 70% is usable in terms of vegetation. As a result, he is required to utilize only 75% of the usable land which will leave him with only 2625 hectares of grazing land.

The study revealed that farmers regard low rainfall as a regular occurrence phenomenon and therefore put measures in place to cope with this challenge. They survive through buying extra feed and supplements for the survival of their animals. Furthermore, farmers try to reduce livestock numbers in order to manage the stocking rate. Literature shows that severe drought is

ascribed to events such as regular climate change, presence of a super EL Nino and global warming Scholtz, Maiwashe, Magadlela, Tjelele and Nkosi (2016). Similarly, according to NID (2010) Namibia will be particularly affected by global climate change until 2030 as a decline in rainfall of up to 25% is predicted, especially for the south, with growing seasonal irregularity and high fluctuations between individual years. Amongst the mitigation measures, are us of other technology advanced farming methods that can absorb drought shocks. Diversification allows farmers to diversify their farming in crop, poultry farming, small stock or large stock farming. The idea is for farmers not to rely on only one type farming

#### ***5.2.4.3 Lack of proper infrastructure***

Livelihoods are sustainable if and when they are supported during and after the distribution of land as land alone might not lead to the enhancement of livelihoods. Meanwhile, lack of physical infrastructure is yet another constraint to the livelihood improvement of farmers in the resettlement programme. The study revealed that farmers are challenged due to poor infrastructure such as poor border fences, animal handling facilities, water infrastructure, roads and accommodation facilities. Lack of proper infrastructure has not only let to increases of beneficiaries spending more money but also brought conflicts between beneficiaries due to cross border grazing between units. Many of them loose animals to predators as their border fences are in dilapidated conditions. The study also shows that water availability was identified by the majority of the respondents as a bigger problem. Through demarcation of units, certain units are required to get water from boreholes situated in other units either through pipelines. This situation leads to more conflicts between neighbouring beneficiaries. The study also revealed that some farms have poor signals of mobile phone networks. Poor mobile phone signals force

those with mobile phones to climb on top of windmills to obtain signals. According to Buumba (2013), lack of mobile phone network may be a barrier to livelihood improvement in terms of information transfer of agricultural extension, market prices of goods and any other needed information. Marceline (2016) also emphasize that communication allows easy access and flow of information to the people and therefore enhance development. Information and communication technology is not well developed and most farmers have poor cellular reception and use solar and wood as a source of energy.

According to Werner and Odendaal (2010), proper infrastructure provision to beneficiaries will enable them to take advantage of new alternatives in which they can invest and uplift their livelihoods in the long run. Mulaw (2010) also argues that as part of proper preparation, basic requisite infrastructure should be put in place before moving people there in order to establish services which are at least similar to the beneficiaries' original areas. Beneficiaries as such need assistance with appropriate infrastructure in their efforts to generate sustainable increases in production and livelihoods in general. The study reveals that beneficiaries suggested to the MLR to take the responsibility to do repairs on most important infrastructure. Furthermore, they indicated that the bad state of resettlement farms is as a result of delays between the time farms are bought and actual resettlement. Therefore mitigation measures should be put in place to avoid destruction of infrastructure before anyone is resettled.

#### ***5.2.4.4 Lack of knowledge, skills and post settlement support***

The research revealed that beneficiaries of the programme under study were former communal farmers from different regions in the country. They described their movement as going through a

life changing process that needed preparation to overcome the new challenges faced in the new environment. One such farmer alluded “*imagine you are taken from your well known area such as the north and you are dumped in the south without any preparation on how to farm? No wonder why some of the resettled farmers are reluctant to take up their allocated units!*” According to Marceline (2016), knowledge and skills enables newly resettled farmers to easily adapt to new changes in their farming activities. Pre-settlement orientation is therefore necessary as it will encourage and prepare the farmer for the challenges he might face in future. Mulaw (2010) also argues that, to make sure whether the area where resettled farmers are to be relocated has similar conditions with what has been drawn by government officials during the advocacy of the programme, some representatives of the resettled farmers should be sent to the receiving area. Following the opinion of the representatives the relocation of the people can be put in place. This will avoid resettling people on totally new areas not known to them also with huge challenges they cannot handle.

Beneficiaries particularly articulated the need for provision of training services on aspects of farming such as farm management, livestock production, financial management, animal health, farm labour and marketing. Similarly, extension plays a key role by conveying important information, such as technology transfer, improved farming techniques and marketing information, to farmers to adopt the for their production efficiency. This study shows that farmers experience huge animal mortalities due to diseases, theft and predators. Yet, this could have been avoided provided farmers were equipped with appropriate knowledge and skills on how to deal with these matters. Consequently, one farmer said “*the programme could have served its purpose if resettled farmers received trainings Most of the people are not farmers but*

*in the meantime apply for the resettlement programme, given a piece of land but have no idea where to start. If they are given training, they will be successful and graduate to become commercial farmers one day. Lack of training is the biggest problem. Farmers should be trained. As I am sitting here, I never received any training to date. If I could have received training, I could have been far by now. I am only using my past experiences as a former farm worker to make progress in my farming”.* Meanwhile, farmers should be encouraged to use local knowledge. According to Bjorkhaug (2017), local knowledge and formal knowledge can be combined to provide new and better solutions.

Literature shows that MLR does have programmes to support and train resettled farmers. The MLR service charter outlines services such as rehabilitation of water infrastructure, post settlement financing support programme and farmers (training) support programme as efforts designed for each resettled farmer. However, good programmes as they are, evidence show that the majority of beneficiaries in this study either received little or no training at all. This can be described as a situation where good programmes are designed but are poorly implemented.

### **5.2.5 How do the resettled farmers deal with the challenges to maintain sustainable livelihood options?**

Results show that beneficiaries were resettled on farms without proper infrastructure development and as result beneficiaries reported losses of animals due to theft and predators. Beneficiaries described their animal losses as a result of dilapidated border fences and fences between neighbouring farmers. As a coping strategy however, beneficiaries organized themselves to repair and set up structures that are useful to their farming. The consequence of

this initiative is that farmers spent more of their income on infrastructure development rather than spending their proceeds on livelihood improvement options. Werner and Odendaal (2010) are of the opinion that through the provision of infrastructure as well as the promotion of alternative income –generating options, resettlement communities will be able to take advantage of new opportunities and comparative benefits based on different resource endowment. Land reform beneficiaries need assistance with appropriate infrastructure on resettlement farms. According to Marceline (2016), livelihood is sustainable if and when it is supported during and after the distribution of land. However, self-help as a key principle should be applied to a certain extent to avoid the attitude of dependency on government.

Results revealed further that drought, insufficient rainfall and small farm sizes were some such challenges that affected the beneficiary's production levels as well as livelihood improvement. Land sizes allocated to beneficiaries was described as insufficient and apart from the land size beneficiaries stated that the grazing on their land is poor due to drought and more bare patches. As a mitigation strategy, farmers indicated that they end up buying extra feed and supplements for their livestock to try and compensate for the poor grazing. Beside this initiative those who can afford, rent grazing on other farms during the period of drought. Furthermore, farmers try to reduce livestock numbers in order to manage stocking rate as per 75% policy guideline of MLR. However, selling all livestock, banking the money at the onset of drought and restock after good rains does not appear to be an acceptable strategy among resettled farmers. They argue that not all of them are good at keeping money in the bank but rather good at keeping livestock and therefore opt for acquiring extra feed. Similarly to infrastructure development, respondents admitted to spending higher costs as they do invest additional assistance for their livestock.

The study further revealed that animal health is one such a challenge and animal losses are observed as a result. Results show that the majority of the farmers indicated to be placed far from veterinary offices and therefore little assistance is received from them. As a coping strategy, farmers indicated that they vaccinate their animals on time as a preventative measure. According to Werner and Odendaal (2010), regular vaccination helps to reduce the incidence of disease and death among small stock, particularly where the poor condition of internal fences allows for livestock to roam around freely and therefore come into contact with the livestock of other beneficiaries. In addition, beneficiaries also indicated that they use indigenous plants and knowledge to treat their sick animals. According Burger (1990) as cited in Chinsebu (2013), indigenous knowledge can be defined as a set of perceptions, information and behaviours that guide local community members' uses of land and natural resources. It is therefore created and sustained by local community members as a means to meet their needs for animal health.

Beneficiaries indicated that lack of provision of title deeds for their land by the relevant authorities. Findings show that beneficiaries' access to title deeds allows them to make investments and secure loans from the banks, thus, that income may be invested to bring more livelihood assets, adding value to their wellbeing. Beneficiaries emphasized the importance of holding title deeds for their land and how they engaged MLR to access them. It should however be noted that provision of title deeds to beneficiaries remains a problem as beneficiaries reported to have written letters to enquire on title deeds but unfortunately no feedback was provided. Illegal renting of allocated land was also indicated to be a challenge as it leads to conflicts between neighbouring beneficiaries. Beneficiaries that rent out land are either not interested in farming or are renting to substitute their income. Therefore, their attention is mostly focused on

the income and don't consider the negative consequences of their actions on other beneficiaries. Those affected by this practice, indicated that they engaged the MLR and regional leaders in their area to mitigate the practice.

## **5.3 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **5.3.1 Conclusions**

The study assessed the contribution of the resettlement programme on sustainable livelihoods of small-scale commercial farmers in Mariental Rural Constituency of the Hardap Region. It was aimed at investigating whether or not the resettlement programme is contributing to the improvement of beneficiaries' livelihoods. In order to achieve this, the study attempted to answer questions that provided deeper analysis on farmers; firstly, their understanding and how they implement their understanding on resettlement programmes. Secondly, the sustainable livelihood options derived as a result of the programme. Thirdly, the challenges faced by beneficiaries and finally, how they deal with these challenges in order to maintain their livelihoods. The empirical data showed that beneficiaries have clear and common understanding about the aim and purpose of the resettlement programme. The study identified landlessness, security land tenure, efforts to reduce poverty, lack of capital to buy own farm, efforts towards improved livelihoods as some of the reasons why beneficiaries applied to be resettled.

The study further revealed that the programme beneficiaries have managed to accumulate assets they did not have before they were resettled. The researcher assessed the lives of resettled farmers and remarkable improvement was observed and tangible assets were evident. In terms of

natural assets, the study findings have shown that all beneficiaries have access to land to do their farming and improve their livelihoods. It should be noted however that none of the beneficiaries was presented with a title deed by MLR but rather with a unit allocation letter. In terms of human capital, the study shows that the programme resulted into better education of the beneficiary's dependents as well as those of the farm labourers.

In terms of physical capital, the study revealed that beneficiaries have accumulated tangible assets that help them to improve their livelihoods. The study further revealed that physical assets such as livestock, vehicles, tractors, houses, water pumps, solar systems and animal handling facilities are among those important assets accumulated. With regard to financial assets, the study revealed that beneficiaries benefited from AgriBank loans as a result of an agreement between the MLR and AgriBank. Although the amounts given are regarded as insufficient, most beneficiaries indicated that these loans helped them to buy livestock and improve infrastructure. Furthermore, the study revealed that farmers increased their income generated from livestock sales in general. With regard to social capital, the programme is said to socially disconnect resettled farmers (those resettled not in their regions of origin) from their families and society. Furthermore, being resettled in regions far away from their original residence, results in them spending more money whenever they are to attend to social events such as funerals and weddings. However, the study shows that the programme resulted in promoting tolerance and acceptance between white commercial farmers and newly resettled farmers.

The study further revealed numerous challenges faced by resettled farmers and also how they try to deal with these challenges. Results show that farms or allocated units are relatively small. According to beneficiaries, these small farms serve as a limiting factor for their progress.

Literature indicates that viable farm sizes for the area under study should be between 5000 and 8000 hectares but on the contrary resettled farmers were allocated units with an average of 2500 hectares. Drought and poor rainfall was described as one such challenge that affects the farmers' production as it reduces the lands' carrying capacity and water sources. As mitigation measures farmers reduced their livestock numbers, bought extra feed and looked for alternative grazing among others. It should be noted however that small allocated units leads to a dual grazing system. Resettled farmers are usually hesitant to abandon their original grazing areas in communal areas due to small allocated units.

The study also revealed that beneficiaries are challenged by lack of proper infrastructure. Poor infrastructure resulted in high spending of time and money and also led to conflicts between neighbouring farmers. Beneficiaries do spend high amounts of money to fix the infrastructure and this affects their livelihoods. The study further revealed that there is a need for training on aspects of farm management, financial management, livestock production, rangeland management, animal health and marketing. It further revealed that extension services are vital for technology transfer and innovation. MLR should implement all support programmes meant for the resettlement programme as outlined in the Resettlement Service Charter.

## **5.4 Recommendations**

### **5.4.1 Recommendations by the resettled farmers**

Participants were asked to indicate recommendations that they might give to the government to consider when implementing such programmes in future. The rationale was to enable the

participants to give recommendations based on their lived experiences. The study revealed very interesting recommendations, which are listed below:

1. Newly resettled farmers should go through intensive orientation as well as training to be able to be successful with the programme.
2. Proper monitoring systems should be in place to avoid infrastructure vandalism. According to farmers, the time frame between the acquisition of farms by the government till beneficiaries are resettled, is too long and this leads to vandalism of infrastructure on the farm. Government should place security agencies on the farm after acquiring it for better care of its assets. Some participants alleged that previous owners sometimes return back after selling farms and steal the remaining assets that were sold along with the farm.
3. MLR to appoint a technical team that will assess the availability and suitability of water in each unit before resettlement happens. Those demarcating units should also demarcate units according to water availability.
4. MLR should first renovate and construct infrastructure essential for farming before handing over farms to beneficiaries. This allows the farmers to start farming immediately and save time and money that farmers could spend.
5. Interviews should be made part of the selection criteria for resettlement as this will allow the ministry to select beneficiaries that are serious, passionate, experienced and have the right attitude towards farming. It is better to resettle farmers on a farm rather than those that are looking for retirement homes or residential place or for status only.

### **5.4.2 Recommendations by the researcher**

1. Pre and post settlement support, training and orientation are very important elements to the success of resettlement programmes in this country. MLR should stop relying on support programmes from other ministries such as extension services in the Ministry of Agriculture but rather have its own training and extension services division. Such a division will mainly focus on resettlement farmers in each region which will make its services more effective and concentrate on their clients, the farmers.

2. Financial support or start-up capital to buy livestock should be availed immediately after the resettlement process as this will enable the beneficiary to start farming immediately. There is a need to increase the current financial support from the current N\$200 000.00 to at least N\$500 000.00 considering the other challenges beneficiaries face.

3. Border fences should be well defined and proper structures should be put in place before resettling anyone as to avoid cross border grazing that leads to unnecessary conflicts.

4. Water resources are crucial for farm production and human consumption and therefore MLR should make sure that each unit has available water sources. When neighbouring farmers need to share a water source, well defined terms and references should be put in place. Sharing of water leads to veld trapping as animals move up and down to a water source in another unit.

5. MLR should make the title deeds available. Beneficiaries will have a sense of ownership and will be encouraged to build and maintain the farms. Owners of these farms can use them as collateral to obtain loans from financial institutions.

6. Advertisement of available farms are mainly done in daily newspapers and this disadvantages the rural poor especially those that cannot read and write, yet the programme was aimed at poverty reduction. Information should be made available on all media platforms available in the country to ensure easy access.

7. With regard to drought and poor rainfall, adaptation and mitigation mechanisms must be integrated within the resettlement programme, with specific emphasis to devise appropriate technologies and diversity for sustainable farming practices.

8. MLR must consider resettling people close to their regions of their origin. This will avoid the social disconnection of individuals from their regional organizations and families. Furthermore, beneficiaries will not be hesitant to accept their allocated units as they are given to farm in the area well known to them. Farming practices will be easier as it will be based on the same practical experiences.

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Appendix A: Ethical Clearance Certificate from the University of Namibia



ETHICAL CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE

Ethical Clearance Reference Number: FOE/261/2017 Date: 27 September, 2017

This Ethical Clearance Certificate is issued by the University of Namibia Research Ethics Committee (UREC) in accordance with the University of Namibia's Research Ethics Policy and Guidelines. Ethical approval is given in respect of undertakings contained in the Research Project outlined below. This Certificate is issued on the recommendations of the ethical evaluation done by the Faculty/Centre/Campus Research & Publications Committee sitting with the Postgraduate Studies Committee.

Title of Project: The Contribution Of Resettlement Programme On Sustainable Livelihoods Of Small - Scale Commercial Farmers In Mariental Rural Constituency Of The Hardap Region

Researcher: Joffa V. Ngavetene

Student Number: 200100580

Faculty: Faculty of Education

Supervisor: Dr. M. Hamunyela

Take note of the following:

- (a) Any significant changes in the conditions or undertakings outlined in the approved Proposal must be communicated to the UREC. An application to make amendments may be necessary.
- (b) Any breaches of ethical undertakings or practices that have an impact on ethical conduct of the research must be reported to the UREC.
- (c) The Principal Researcher must report issues of ethical compliance to the UREC (through the Chairperson of the Faculty/Centre/Campus Research & Publications Committee) at the end of the Project or as may be requested by UREC.
- (d) The UREC retains the right to:
  - (i) Withdraw or amend this Ethical Clearance if any unethical practices (as outlined in the Research Ethics Policy) have been detected or suspected.
  - (ii) Request for an ethical compliance report at any point during the course of the research.

UREC wishes you the best in your research.

Prof. P. Odonkor: UREC Chairperson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Odonkor', written over a horizontal line.

Msj P. Claassen: UREC Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Claassen', written over a horizontal line.

Appendix B: Letter requesting permission from the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Land Reform

Mr. Jefta V. Ngavetene  
P.O Box 99256  
Windhoek  
081 232 4065  
jngavetene@unam.na

24 October 2017

Mr. Peter Amutenya  
Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Lands Reform  
Private Bag 13343  
Windhoek

Attention: Mr. Petrus Nangolo  
Director: Land Reform

**SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE WITH RESETTLEMENT INFORMATION FOR ACADEMIC PURPOSES**

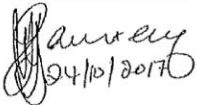
I am Jefta Vatuna Ngavetene, student no. 2001 00 580, a student at the University of Namibia and I am currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Education (Adult Education). As part of the curriculum I am expected to carry out a thesis study in any area of my choice. It is against this background that I had chosen the subject about resettlement and I would like to obtain data on the subject. My intended area of study is Mariental Rural Constituency in Hardap Region. The title of my research is "The Contribution of Resettlement Programme on Sustainable Livelihoods of Small-Scale Commercial Farmers in Mariental Rural Constituency of the Hardap Region". In addition, I would also like to visit farms that will be purposively selected and interview the farmers in person in order to investigate the contribution of the resettlement program on their livelihoods.

Furthermore, with this letter I would like to request your good office to assist with the secondary data or information that would complement field collected data for the completion of this study. I would like to state that information obtained from the Ministry of Lands Reform will only be used for academic purposes. Attached find the ethical clearance letter from the University's School of Postgraduate Studies, and Research and Publications Office. The findings of the study will be availed to the Ministry for further decision making purposes.

I am looking forward to your assistance in this regard.

Yours sincerely

Jefta V. Ngavetene  
081 232 4065  
jngavetene@unam.na



24/10/2017



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA  
MINISTRY OF LAND REFORM

Tel: (+264-61)2955069  
Fax: (+264-61)2955353  
Enquiries: Mr. Eric Ndala

55 Robert Mugabe Avenue  
Private Bag 13343  
Windhoek  
Namibia

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This letter serves to confirm that Mr. Jesta V. Ngavetene, a student at the University of Namibia pursuing a Masters' Degree in Education, has been granted permission to obtain data on resettlement program from the Ministry of Land Reform.

He is permitted to visit some resettlement farms in Hardap Region and conduct interviews with some beneficiaries on the topic of his intended research. The information to be collected will be used for academic purposes only.

Your usual assistance to Mr. Ngavetene with data or information to enable him to complete his study will be highly appreciated.

Yours sincerely

  
Peter Amutenya  
PERMANENT SECRETARY



*All official correspondence must be addressed to the Permanent Secretary*

**Appendix D: Consent letter from the resettled farmers**

**Consent letter:**

I....., agree to take part in this research and was granted an opportunity to ask questions related to this study, and received satisfactory answers to my questions.

I understand that my participation in this study is out of my own will and I am free to withdraw from the study at any time.

I understand that the information shared will be handled with confidentiality and I also understand that if I don't want my name to be used that will be ensured by the researcher.

I understand that the information gathered during this interview will solely be used for academic purposes.

Name of participant: .....

Signature of participant:.....

Date:.....

Name of Interviewer: Jefta V. Ngavetene

Signature:.....

Date:.....

For further information regarding this research, contact ( Jefta V. Ngavetene @ 081 2324 065).

## **Appendix E: Interview guide for resettled farmers**

### **1. Semi-structured interview questions for resettled farmers in Mariental Rural Constituency of Hardap Region.**

Comprehensive introduction and explanation of the purpose of the study to the interviewers will be done at first. The researcher will then introduces data collection tools such as voice recorder, note book and observation checklist to the interviewee that will be used during the interview process. Participants who are able to read and write will be asked to sign consent forms and those who are unable to read and write will be required to make oral consent that will be recorded. Similarly, participants will be assured of confidentiality, anonymity and the right to withdraw at any time from the study.

#### **SECTION A: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**

1. What is your name?
2. What is your marital status?
3. What is your age class?
4. How big is your household size?
5. What is your educational background?
4. Are you a full or part time farmer?

#### **SECTION B: What is the resettled farmers understanding of the resettlement programme in terms of its purpose in Mariental Rural Constituency?**

1. When and why did you apply to be resettled as a small-scale commercial farmer?

2. How did you come to know about the resettlement programme?

3. What does resettlement programme mean to you?

4. Why did you want to be resettled as a small-scale farmer?

5. Do you think that the programme serves its purpose?

**SECTION C: To what extent do resettled farmers implement their understanding of the resettlement programme?**

1. How much land was allocated to you and do you think the farm size in your possession is sufficient?

2. How do you compare your farming activities before and after you were resettled?

3. How do you compare your social life before and after you were resettled?

4. Where do you see yourself in 10 years' time as resettled small - scale farmer owning a piece of land?

5. What do you think what difference and influence can resettled farmers bring about in agriculture and community development as a whole?

**SECTION D: What sustainable livelihood options are derived from the implementation of the resettlement of the resettlement programme?**

1. What resources and assets did you initially have before you were resettled and what have you gained or improved for your household after resettled?

2. What other livelihood strategies do your household employ other than farming?

3. What are your livelihood outcomes after adopting other strategies?

4. Would you say that the resettlement programme has enhanced your life? and if so, how?

**SECTION E: What challenges is faced by resettled farmers and how do they deal with the challenges to maintain the sustainable livelihood options?**

1. What are the main challenges and problems faced by resettled farmers and how do you go about it to solve these problems?

2. Can you describe the type of support you need and what you were given since resettlement?

2. What factors hinder or influence livestock productivity at resettlement farms?

3. How would you describe the status of farm infrastructure being water, fences, houses, animal handling facilities etc.?

4. What are your current distances to the following facilities?

- Service providers being schools, clinic, government offices, shops etc.
- Market place

5. How would you describe the service provision to resettled farmers by service providers?

6. What would you recommend the government should consider when implementing such programs in the future?

**Appendix F: Observation Checklist**

**2. Observation checklist for resettled farmers in Mariental Rural Constituency of Hardap Region.**

**SECTION A: Livestock**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Comments/Description</b>
Livestock management practices				
Animal health status				
Animal physical status				

**SECTION B: Farm Infrastructure**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Comments/Description</b>
Animal handling facilities				
Fences and farm roads				
Water infrastructure				

Equipment, improvements and maintenance				
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**SECTION C: Farm Grazing**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Comments/Description</b>
Sufficient grazing				
Rangeland management practices				
Provision of licks and supplementary feeding				

**SECTION D: Accommodation Facilities**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Comments/Description</b>
House status				
Sanitary facilities				
Running water				

Communication facilities				
Transport facilities				
Power supply				