

**SUSTAINABILITY OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROJECTS: A CASE  
OF THOKGOANENG AND MARATAPELO VILLAGES IN LIMPOPO  
PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA**

BY

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## **CHAPTER 1: GENERAL ORIENTATION TO RESEARCH**

### **1.1 THE BACKGROUND TO POVERTY ALLEVIATION**

Persistent poverty is a socio-economic problem of global concern. In most developing countries, rural communities are the most affected as they rely on agriculture and related activities for their survival. These communities ultimately established rural poverty alleviation such as bakeries, vegetable gardens, poultry farming and related projects. The establishment of these projects is to ensure that the projects sustain themselves with the aim of alleviating poverty. In the area of this study, as well as in other rural areas of South Africa, the Provincial Department of Health and Social Development and the Department of Agriculture funded most of these poverty alleviation projects. According to Burger (2005:533), the Provincial Department of Health and Social Development manages a programme called Poverty Relief Programme. This programme aims at assisting the communities with a range of development projects, where state resources are entrusted to communities to undertake and dictate development for themselves by themselves.

Burger (2005:92) also indicates that Land Affairs and Agricultural Development (Land Bank) provides a range of finance options to a broad spectrum of clients in the agricultural sector, including rural entrepreneurs, youth and women through its network of 27 branches and 37 satellites offices, supplemented by mobile branches, which are primarily located in rural areas. The mission of the Land Bank, according to Burger (2005:92), among others, is to develop and provide appropriate products for commercial and development clients and also to contribute to rural development by linking up with government structures and activities. In financing the communities, the aim is to fight poverty through the sustainability of rural poverty alleviation projects.

The sustainability of poverty alleviation projects is not a problem confined to South Africa only, but it is a global problem. Sub-Saharan Africa, which is the poorest region in the world, according to Mill (2000:86), is also involved in poverty alleviation programmes. The region has many serious socio-economic constraints like political instability, low population density and work ethics that

make it difficult for poverty alleviation projects to be sustainable. There are many countries, especially Latin American countries like Mexico and Argentina, which have a serious problem of alleviating poverty. The states have introduced poverty alleviation programmes that are aimed at alleviating poverty, but a country like Mexico still has a poverty rate of more than 90 per cent (Wiggins 2002:181). The main poverty alleviation programmes are agricultural activities as they are seen as having potential for development.

Donor agencies are also involved in the funding of these projects. Eskom Development Foundation is one of them, as it has approved an amount of R450 000-00 for its poverty alleviation programme. Each of the nine provinces in South Africa was allocated an amount of R50 000-00 for the needy community projects (Eskom Development Foundation 2006:1). These donations were given to the needy projects to alleviate poverty through projects like vegetable gardens. Nel and Hill (2002:211) indicated that the Eastern Cape Province has also benefited from grants and loans from the Dutch Aid Agency, Ciskei State Agricultural Corporation and Eastern Cape Development Agency (ECDA). The involvement of these agencies plays a role in poverty alleviation, but sustainability of the projects by project members is still a serious problem.

## **1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT**

Lack of sustainability of rural poverty alleviation projects is a problem to most rural communities. During his February 2001 State of the Nation Address, President Thabo Mbeki announced the Integrated Sustainable Rural Development Strategy that was designed to build socially stable rural poverty alleviation projects (Aliber 2005:7). The problem with such rural poverty alleviation projects is that some of them are not operational. Statistics supplied by Department of Health and Social Development in the Capricorn District, Limpopo Province, indicate that 30 projects were established at Ga-Chuene, Ga-Maja, Ga-Molepo, Mankweng, Ga-Dikgale, Seshego and Moletji rural communities. There are some projects that are no longer operational due to the fact that they are not sustainable. The lack of sustainability of these projects is a problem that this proposed research intends to investigate. The government, together with donor agencies, is channeling funds to these projects, but some of

them cannot sustain themselves. The lack of sustainability of these projects hinders rural development.

### 1.3 OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS

**Community participation:** Community participation, according to de Vos Strydom, Fouché, Poggenpoel and Schurink (2001:406), can be defined as the creation of a democratic system and procedure to enable the community members to become actively involved and take responsibility for their own development, to share equally in the fruit of community development and to improve their decision making power. In this study, community development is a process that involves the participation of rural communities in poverty alleviation projects to improve their quality of life.

**Development:** Nel and McGowan (1990:261) define development as a multi-dimensional process involving major changes in social structures, popular attitudes and national institutions, as well as the acceleration of economic growth, the reduction of inequality and eradication of poverty. Development in this study will refer to changes in rural communities brought about by sustainable poverty alleviation projects.

**Economic growth:** Economic growth, according to Todaro (2000:740), is the steady process by which the productive capacity of an economy is increased over time to bring about rising level of national output and income. In this study, economic growth will refer to an increase in the production of commodities that bring an income to the community.

**Empowerment:** De Vos, Strydom, Fouché, Poggenpoel and Schurink (2001:407) define empowerment as the process increasing the personal, interpersonal and political power, enabling individuals or collectives to improve their life situation. This study will define empowerment as the process that empowers rural communities to participate in poverty alleviation projects, with the aim of improving their quality of life.

**Poverty:** Poverty, according to Todaro (2000:739), is a situation wherein a population or a section of a population is able to meet only its bare subsistence essential for food, clothing and shelter to maintain their levels of living. In this study, poverty will refer to a condition wherein many people in a community lack basic needs due to financial constraints.

**Production:** Production, according to Allen and Thomas (2001:46), is a process in which human energy is expended to transform natural resources into goods for consumption. In this study, production will refer to a process whereby poverty alleviation projects are able to produce commodities that are marketable and can be consumed.

**Rural development:** Todaro (2000:741) defines rural development as a broad spectrum of rural development activities, including small farmer agricultural process, the provision of physical and social infrastructure, the development of rural non-farm industries, and the capacity of the rural sector to sustain and accelerate the pace of these improvements overtime. In this study, rural development will refer to initiatives taken by the rural communities to develop themselves through different rural poverty alleviation projects.

**Sustainable development:** Cunningham and Siago (2001:29) define sustainable development as a process in human well being that can be extended or prolonged over many generations rather than over a few years. This study will regard sustainable development as a process that enables poverty alleviation projects to sustain themselves and raise the level of living of the poor.

## **1.4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

### **1.4.1 Aim of the study**

The aim of this proposed research is to establish the factors that lead to lack of sustainability of the rural poverty alleviation projects at Maratapelo and Thokgoaneng villages of Ga-Chuene in Limpopo Province.

### **1.4.2 Objectives of the study**

The following objectives will assist the researcher in realizing the aim of this envisaged study.

- To analyze rural poverty alleviation projects for their sustainability;
- To explore problems encountered in the management of poverty alleviation projects; and
- To recommend strategies that can be adopted in the management of poverty alleviation projects.

## **1.5 RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

How sustainable are poverty alleviation projects in rural areas?

What factors can contribute to the sustainability of poverty alleviation projects?  
Who should be the role-players in the management of poverty alleviation projects?

## **1.6 UNIT OF ANALYSIS**

Groups will be used as units of analysis. Babbie and Mouton (2001:84) indicate that units of analysis are typically also units of observation. Social groups will be vital in this envisaged study since more than one poverty alleviation project is to be observed.

## **1.7 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The study will employ a qualitative approach. According to White (2006:170), the product of qualitative research is richly descriptive. Words and pictures, rather than numbers are used to convey what the researcher has learnt about a phenomenon. The role-players in rural poverty alleviation projects and what they experience in their daily lives will be investigated.

### **1.7.1 Area of study**

The proposed study will be conducted at Maratapelo and Thokgoaneng villages. The villages are found in Ward 1 of the Polokwane municipality in Capricorn District Municipality. These villages are next to one another, and so most rural poverty alleviation projects were established there. The villages are found about 35 kilometers south of Polokwane City. The information gathered from Statistics South Africa, obtained from its Limpopo offices, indicates that there are 14 206 people in Ward 1 of Polokwane Municipality, where these villages are situated. Women alone constitute 7 709, while men constitute 6 496 of the total population. These two villages constitute about half of the population of Ga-Chuene community. The population has 5 840 people who do not have an income, while most receive a monthly income of between R401 00 to 820-00. These figures indicate that most people in these villages are very poor, hence a need for the establishment of poverty alleviation projects.

### **1.7.2 Secondary Data Sources**

Cohen, Marion and Morrison (2001:161) describe secondary data sources as those sources that do not have a direct physical relationship to the event being studied. The secondary sources provide second-hand information as the information is always taken from the primary source. Secondary data sources sometimes contain wrong or misinterpreted information, but they are still the most important sources of information in the research process. Secondary data sources to be utilized in this study will be quoted materials, textbooks, journals, yearbooks and reproduction of other materials or information. These sources are essential as they will provide a quick overview of the research developments on the topic.

### **1.7.3 Primary Data Sources**

Primary data sources, according to Cohen et al., (2001:161), are those items that have a direct physical relationship with the event being studied. These data sources are original sources in the sense that they contain firsthand information from the eyewitnesses, participants or of the events being investigated. These sources include written and oral testimony provided by the actual participants. Primary data sources are the most adequate sources to fulfill the aims of the researcher, since the gathering of information is directed towards answering precisely the questions raised by the researcher (Bless and Higson-Smith 1995:83). The primary sources utilized in this case will be the interviews and data collected through the scheduled structured interview questionnaires.

### **1.7.4 Population**

The targeted population for this study will be from the Maratapelo and Thokgoaneng villages, where most of the projects are found. The population sample will be derived from the role-players in bakeries, poultry farming and vegetable gardening.

### **1.7.5 Sampling**

This study will employ cluster sampling procedure. According to MacMillan and Schumacher (1993:163), in cluster sampling the researcher identifies convenient, naturally occurring group units, and then randomly selects some of these units for a study. Each project has its group of people working daily for the sustenance

of their project. The unit of analysis will be sampled from members of these projects. Those are the relevant ones who will assist in giving the relevant information about the operation of rural poverty alleviation projects and how they can be made sustainable.

### **1.9 DATA ANALYSIS**

Data collected will be analyzed through Grounded Research Theory. Punch (2005:155) defines Grounded Research Theory as a strategy whose purpose is to generate theory from data. A theory to be generated in this proposed study is lack of sustainability of rural poverty alleviation projects.

A coding process is to be adopted to break down and examine data before conceptualization. According to Punch (2005:199), the following three coding stages of Grounded Theory are important in generating theory:

- **Open coding:** This is the stage wherein labeling, i.e. putting the labels on pieces of data, will be done.
- **Axial coding:** This is the second stage wherein the main categories, which have emerged from open coding of data, are interconnected with each other. Responses about lack of sustainability of the projects, problems encountered in the management of the projects and factors that may lead to the sustainability will help in consolidating the open coding; and
- **Selective coding:** This is the third stage wherein one aspect is deliberately selected as a core category. Selective coding helps in refining categories into more manageable data.

### **1.10 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

The study is significant as it indicates the reasons for the researcher's choice of a particular problem. Lack of sustainability of rural poverty alleviation projects is an indication that there is a perceived information gap in the implementation of these projects that needs to be identified and filled in. The findings of this research will be beneficial to the policy makers, whose responsibility is to develop and adopt new approaches in establishing rural poverty alleviation projects. The research findings and recommendations can also assist the policy-



makers in introducing different approaches about poverty alleviation projects. The findings will also be beneficial for further future research in poverty alleviation projects. Poverty, as a global problem can only be alleviated if the research findings by various researchers are taken into consideration and adopted.

## **1.11 RESEARCH REPORT OUTLINE**

### **Chapter 1: GENERAL ORIENTATION TO RESEARCH**

The general orientation to the research gives a description of a research problem to be studied. The research problem in this case is the sustainability of rural poverty alleviation projects. The orientation describes the aim, objectives, research questions and the unit of analysis. Research methodology is briefly discussed in this chapter. This includes, the area of study, data sources to be utilized, population and sampling and data collection methods. The chapter also discusses the significance of the study.

### **Chapter 2: Literature Review**

The literature review provides information on what different authors or researchers say about the phenomenon being studied, which in this case is sustainability of rural poverty alleviation projects. The literature will include international overview, research in South Africa and research in Limpopo Province. The literature to be used will include books, journals and Internet materials relating to the topic studied.

### **Chapter 3: Research Methodology**

This chapter will describe the design of the envisaged study, the description of the area of study, population and sampling, choice of instruments and data collection procedures.

### **Chapter 4: Research findings, Data Analysis, Presentation and Interpretation.**

This chapter describes how data would have been analyzed, presented and interpreted. In analyzing data, the researcher will use different charts and tables to present and interpret the research findings from the respondents.

## **CHAPTER 5: Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations**

In this chapter, the researcher gives a brief summary of the chapters designed to achieve the objectives of the research. The researcher concludes the mini-thesis and makes appropriate recommendations in order to improve the status of poverty alleviation projects in rural areas.

### **1.10. CONCLUSION**

The chapter highlights the global problem of sustainability of poverty alleviation projects, which affects mainly the poor rural communities, which is a global problem affecting mainly the poor rural communities. The provincial departments, especially Health and Social Development, and Agriculture are involved in the establishment of these projects through Poverty Relief Programmes. Many rural communities are trying to alleviate poverty through poverty alleviation projects that are mainly associated with agricultural activities. Apart from agricultural projects, there are other projects like poultry and chicken farming, brick-making and baking. Sub-Saharan Africa, which is the poorest region in the world, is also involved in poverty alleviation programmes, but due to socio-economic constraints, it does not succeed in its mission except where the international donors are involved.

There are operational definitions that needed to be defined according to what they refer to in this study. The significance of the study, the aim and objectives of the study, research questions, data sources, and research methods are discussed in this chapter. All these will contribute to answering the research questions about the sustainability of poverty alleviation projects. The chapter that follows focuses on the literature review, which is about what other authors have written about the sustainability of poverty alleviation projects, internationally, national, in South Africa and also in Limpopo Province.

## **CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1 INTRODUCTION**

Billions of people in the world today live under unacceptable conditions of poverty. Most of these people are found in rural areas as poverty manifests itself in rural areas, where most people are engaged in agricultural activities for survival. Many developing countries are establishing rural poverty alleviation programmes with the hope of releasing the poor from the poverty cycle. There are rural poverty alleviation projects like vegetable gardens, poultry farming and bakeries that were established for the purpose of giving the poor an opportunity to take part in economic activities. These projects have a potential for economic growth of the rural communities if they are viable and well marketed.

This chapter focuses on community development as a means of alleviating poverty. Rural communities need to participate in these projects as this is a way of empowering them to take charge of their lives. Poverty is a global problem, with developing countries of Latin America, Asia and Africa being the most affected. Every country has its poverty alleviation programmes. Country-specific programme to tackle poverty and international efforts supporting these national efforts are crucial to this problem (World Summit for Social Development 1995:1). South African effort to alleviate poverty and Limpopo in particular is the focus of this chapter.

## **2. 2 POVERTY AS A PROBLEM ENCOUNTERED IN RURAL AREAS**

One of the World Bank's goals, according to Allen and Thomas (2004: 203), is to reduce poverty by one half of the proportion of the people in the extreme poverty. The eradication of poverty is a crucial issue that needs special programs in every country. The World Summit for Social Development (WSSD 6-12 March 1995) indicated that poverty is a multidimensional problem with its origin in both the national and international domains. Poverty is also a problem of global concern. Todaro (1998:15) indicates that the poorest in the Third World are women and children who experience the most severe deprivation. Sustainable rural poverty alleviation can play an important role in improving the lives of rural people. During the World Summit on Social Development, (WSSD: 6-12 March 1995), it was indicated that poverty is a complex multidimensional problem with its own origin in both the national and international domains. The eradication of poverty, according to the summit, can be accomplished through anti-poverty programmes. Country-specific programmes to tackle poverty and international efforts supporting national

efforts are crucial to poverty alleviation. The World Bank, in its 1992 World Development Report, indicated that the annual investments to achieve a sustainable development are needed in developing countries (Todaro 2000:444). These investments would be of great use to programmes of alleviating poverty in rural communities.

Poverty is a problem of global concern in that every continent is affected. In Latin America there are countries like Mexico and Argentina that are engaged in poverty alleviation projects. China is also facing the problem of poverty alleviation but it is one country that is succeeding in this regard. Africa is one of the continents where poverty alleviation is still a serious challenge. One of the challenges of poverty alleviation in Africa is that it is mainly rural. Todaro (2000:170) points out that poverty manifests itself in rural areas, where the poor are disproportionately located and are engaged in agricultural activities. Rural communities have established rural poverty alleviation projects, but poverty still exists. President Thabo Mbeki, during his February 2001 State of the Nation Address, presented the ISRDS (Aliber, 2005:7). This programme is designed to build socially cohesive and stable rural communities with viable institutions and a sustainable economy. The impetus to create the programme, according to Aliber (2007:7), was the observation that investment in rural areas did not have the envisaged impact in alleviating poverty. The months leading to the tenth celebration SA's also democracy witnessed a debate over trends in the incidence of poverty in the post-apartheid era (Jones and Stokke, 2005:101).

The Department of Health and Social Development has established rural poverty alleviation projects around the country through the Poverty Relief Programme. The programme, according to Burger (2005:555), targets the vulnerable groups, namely, women, children and the disabled people. Through the flagship programme, the unemployed men and women living in rural areas and disadvantaged informal settlements are given economic and development opportunities (Burger, 2005:559). The paradigm of sustainable development, as highlighted by Swanepoel (2002:193), requires that the people be empowered to take responsibility for their own development. De Beer and Swanepoel (2006:37) indicate that any development initiatives of alleviating poverty must have human development as an objective. The role players in these projects must identify a project that they think will bring income

to sustain itself. The development initiatives are given in the form of rural poverty alleviation projects like vegetable gardens, bakeries, poultry farming brick-making and the related projects.

Bhorat, Leibrandt, Mayiza, van der Berg and Woolwards (2001:62) highlight the fact that eradicating poverty, or at least reducing the incidence of poverty in the society, as a key dilemma facing South Africa. The best possible poverty alleviator, according to Bhorat et al., (2001:203), is a sustainable economic growth. Sustainable rural poverty alleviation projects are, therefore, possible poverty alleviator as they have a potential for economic growth. Swanepoel (2002:15) indicates that rural community projects are a disappointment, a frustration and even about deeper apathy. These frustrations and disappointments are always brought about by lack of sustainability of the projects.

Aliber (2005:10) indicates that since most people in developing countries live in rural areas and are engaged in agricultural activities; agriculture is the most effective way to reduce poverty. The establishment of rural poverty alleviation projects like vegetable gardens plays an important role in alleviating poverty in most rural communities.

### **2. 3 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AS A MEANS OF ALLEVIATING POVERTY**

The aim of community development, according to Lombard (1992:2050), is the improvement of the quality of life for the individual and the community on the physical, social, economic and political terrain of the development to help establish a balanced growth. Development addresses poverty of the people. Poverty can be classified according to the levels of advantage; namely absolute, extreme and relative poverty. Absolute poverty is described as a situation in which a population is able to meet only its bare subsistence essential to maintain a minimum level of survival (Nel and McGowan 1999:311). The World Bank, according to De Beer and Swanepoel (2002:2), describes extreme poverty as a situation where incomes are so low that even a minimum standard of nutrition, shelter and personal necessities cannot be maintained. The concept of relative poverty, according to De Beer and Swanepoel (2002:3), refers to people whose basic needs are met, but whom, in terms of their social environment, still experience some disadvantages. Poverty,

complex as it is, manifests itself in many aspects like malnutrition and illiteracy. Development, as formulated by Korten (1990:17), is a process by which the members of a society increase and manage resources to produce sustainable and justly distributed improvements in their quality of life consistent with their own aspirations (Liebenberg and Steward 1997:30). Rural people have engaged in activities designed to improve their well-being and have been taking the initiatives and responsibility for such activities. Through rural poverty alleviation projects, many communities have been able to meet their basic needs.

For development to be sustainable there need to be basic interrelated elements that make up this process. According to Liebenberg and Steward (1997:124) these basic elements are participation, empowerment and sustainability

### **2.3.1 Participation**

This is a process in which participants take initiatives and take actions that are stimulated by their own thinking and deliberations and over which they can exert effective control (Liebenberg and Steward 1997:125). Participation should be seen as a means of empowering people by developing their skills and abilities. Through participation, which is an essential part of human growth, people develop self-confidence, self-reliance and also a sense of responsibility.

De Beer and Swanepoel (2002:67) emphasize that local people are the experts of their particular area and their knowledge should not be underestimated. Participation holds the key to implementing development programmes and projects, and also assisting the poor in developing themselves. The goals of community development are directed at the processes. Any project, according to Lombard (1992:208), accomplished in the community is brought about by involvement and participation of the people of that community. Participation is critical in community development as it furthers self-help in the communities.

Popular participation, community participation, people's participation and democratic participation are the words used interchangeably in community development. Campell and Marshall in Nzigo and Kuye (2005:749) explained popular participation as an active process through which the beneficiary/client groups influence the

direction and execution of a development project with a view to enhancing their well-being in terms of income, people growth, self-reliance or other values. In popular participation, beneficiaries should be provided with opportunities to make choices when they take part in the socio-economic activities that they cherish. Sustainable rural poverty alleviation projects like vegetable gardens, poultry have that potential to bring an income to the community and also make people self-reliant. The economic growth of any community is brought about by development that takes place within that community.

Democratic participation, as a concept applied to both local and national government discourses, has various meanings (Nzigo and Kuye 2005:746). Generically, it can be understood to refer to the manner in which the government institutions allow the communities to take part in the decision making process intended to delineate their operations. In democratic participation, according to Nzigo and Kuye (2005:746), the government goes out to the community to find out what their needs are and rationalizes these with institutional objectives. The government's main objective is poverty alleviation, and this objective can only be achieved if the beneficiaries take an active part in poverty alleviation projects.

Zimbabwe is an example of a country that practices democratic participation. It has established 57 Rural District Councils (RDC) that are expected to provide services of a local nature to the communities within their jurisdictions (Nzigo and Kuye 2005:744). These councils are expected to initiate and implement sustainable development projects for Zimbabwe's rural Communities estimated at 65% of the total population. The establishment of these projects is seen as a way of ensuring that the Zimbabweans enjoy the good life that the independence of the country should offer. These councils are in charge of the grassroots people, who are characterized by poverty and all forms of socio-economic and political deprivation resulting from colonial era (Nzigo and Kuye 2005:745). Democratic participation in this case is seen as an instrument for developing self-consciousness and enabling the people to take charge of their own development process.

Community public participation, as another form of participation, according to Ababio (2004:273), can be described as the relationship between the local government and

the community. Community participation requires the involvement of all stakeholders, including the marginalized groups such as women and the youth. The women are mostly the main beneficiaries as most of them are the breadwinners in their families. Their involvement in community participation shall bring about a meaningful change in the livelihoods of their families through rural poverty alleviation projects.

### **2.3.1.1 Levels of participation**

Ababio (2004:273) indicates that for participation to succeed, it needs the following five levels, which are inform, consult, involve, collaborate and empower.

Firstly, inform: that is to provide the community with balanced and objective information to enable people to understand the problem, alternatives and solutions. Poverty alleviation, as global concern, should be understood by everybody. A solution to poverty alleviation shall always include the participation of all stakeholders, namely the community, businesses and the government. Sustainable rural poverty alleviation projects are a solution to solving the problem of poverty.

Secondly, consult: that involves obtaining feedback on analysis, alternatives and solution. The communities, as beneficiaries should be consulted in identifying different types of community projects that have a potential to alleviate poverty within their communities. The government can come up with projects that are capable of alleviating poverty, but there needs to be consultation with the beneficiaries as they more knowledgeable about their needs within their communities.

Thirdly, involve: the aim is to work directly with the community through the process to ensure that the community issues and concerns are understood and considered at an early stage. This will need the involvement of the government and donors, who are the stakeholders on the fight against poverty. These stakeholders always bring their expertise to assist the poor people poverty alleviation.

Fourthly, collaborate: the objective being to involve the community as equal partners in each aspects of decision-making, including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution. The communities are masters of their own environment, and therefore, collaborating with them will make poverty alleviation



projects more sustainable than imposing on them what needs to be established as viable projects.

Fifthly, empower: the aim being to place the final decision in the hands of the community. The projects need to have the starting point and the ending point. Every project, which is established through the government, must end up being solely owned by the community concerned. The community needs to be empowered in managing their own project.

In community participation there needs to be as many participants as possible, who shall be involved in decision-making processes. The community, as customers or beneficiaries of development, is more responsive to the public needs than the government. Poverty is felt mainly by them, and their involvement in decision – making processes is crucial for poverty alleviation.

### **2.3.2.2 Empowerment**

Empowerment, according to Max-Neef (1991:62), as cited by Liebenberg and Steward (1997:125) is viewed as a process that makes power available so that it can be used for the manipulation of access and the use of resources to achieve certain development goals. De Beer and Swanepoel (2002:125) also highlight to the fact that community development is aimed at empowering the communities and strengthening their capacity for self-sustaining development. When people are empowered, they are able to express and assert what development means to them. Genuine development, according to Wilson and Ramphela (1994:262), is that development which empowers people, which enables them to build organizations. Communities that are involved in rural poverty alleviation needs to be empowered so that they do not rely on government expertise forever. A community development project like Maratapelo Poultry is now able to operate on its own and also able to pay the staff because it has been empowered.

Holtzhausen, in the World Bank (2003:112) asserts that development is not about the delivery of goods to passive citizenry. It is about involvement and empowerment. It is therefore imperative that the community and other stakeholders are actively involved through, active participation in the process of community development.

World Bank (2002:14) broadly defines empowerment as an expansion of freedom of choice and actions to shape one's life. The poor people are capacitated to participate in negotiate with, influence, control and hold accountable the constitution that affect their lives. People living with poverty need to be empowered by fully involving them in the design, implementation monitoring and assessment of poverty alleviation programmes. Empowerment should emphasize capacity-building and community- base management.

### **2.3.3 Sustainability**

Sustainability or sustainable development is defined as a developmental strategy that manages all assets, natural and human resources, as well as finance and assets, for increasing long term wealth and wellbeing (Liebenberg and Steward 1997:126). The Brundtland Commission (1987) defined sustainability as a process that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of the future generation to meet their own (World Bank 2003:14). Sustainability as a process in the human well-being needs to be prolonged for many generations. Poverty alleviation projects that are sustainable are able to ensure a better life for all. Popular participation and empowerment constitute a central component of sustainable development. Sustainability should be based on the beneficial attainment of access to and the mobilization of resources by the poor in order to address their basic needs.

Lombard (1992:100) indicates that though the struggle against poverty should be waged by means of community action, it does not always prove to be successful. Despite the efforts by the government to channel funds and resources to the community projects, there are some that are found to be unsustainable.

In sustainable development there are different approaches by which the government within the institutions, according to the School of Public Management and Administration, University of Pretoria (World Bank 2003:14). The three different approaches are the centralized approach, the provincial/regional/state-induced development approach and the locally driven development approach.

#### **2.3.3.1 The centralized approach**

The approach here is to control all rural development programmes centrally. The national spheres of government could determine developmental objectives, create favourable conditions for their implementation and monitor the operational activities of such development programmes. The advantage in this approach is that the government has those national resources that could be distributed according to the needs and capacities of the different municipalities.

### **2.3.3.2 The provincial/regional/state–induced development approach**

In this approach, the provincial or regional spheres of government are allowed to take the responsibility of identifying possible initiatives that could promote development in that province or region. The advantage of this approach is that there is co-ordination within the province for the sustainability of development projects.

### **2.3.3.3 The locally driven development approach**

The approach here is to allow local level i.e. the individual municipalities and their district councils, to design their development programmes. The advantage of this approach is that there will be improved chances that the projects may be aligned to local people's needs and aspirations. The communities will then be fully aware of their need to accept responsibility for their destiny in poverty alleviation.

## **2.4 POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN MEXICO**

Mexican poverty is concentrated in the countryside, where 70 to 80 per cent of the poor live. According to Wiggins (2002:181), more than 90 per cent of the rural householders live in poverty and more than one third endure extreme poverty.

During the 1940s and 1950s the Mexican state concentrated its rural investments in road and irrigation works. This was done in those parts that showed the greatest potential for rapid increase in farm production (Wiggins, Keibach, Preibisch, Proctor, Herrejon and Munoz 2002:181). For sustainable farming, according to Wiggins et al (2002:181), a green revolution took place with intensified use of fertilizers, irrigation water, crop protection chemicals and improved seeds. These efforts by the state led to an agricultural production growth of 4.7 per cent a year between 1940 and 1965.

Wiggins et al. (2002:181) stated that the state took on the challenges of improving the smallholders' farming on the ejidos (indigenous communities). The state did this

by subsidizing the price of farm inputs such as fertilizers, and also by directing large amounts of seasoned credit at low interest rate to ejidatarios (resident members). The peasantry was encouraged to follow green revolution packages of maize and other staple foods. The state agencies played the most crucial role in supplying almost all the inputs, credit and crop insurance and buying up outputs at a guaranteed price.

## **2.5 The 'BEST PRACTICE' POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN ARGENTINA**

Φyen, Ginamore, Fultot, Joshi, Krüger, Mehrotra Miller, Moore, Vital and Werthein (2002:101) selected a programme that qualified as the best practice in poverty alleviation at a local level in Mandoza, Argentina. It was a production, packaging and export project by small-scale vegetable producers. The smallholders, according to Φyen et al (2002:102), were encouraged by the National Institute of Farming Technology and the provincial government's Agrisol Programme to establish a project. The Farming Social Plan (SFP) also assisted in the establishment of the project. The Social Farming Plan, according to Φyen et al. (2002:102) provided credit to producers at a very low annual interest rate of an annual 4 per cent compared with banks' credit rate of approximately between 12 and 14 percent a year. The participating producers were able to produce garlic seeds.

The participants in the project, according to Φyen et al (2002:103) were the producers (beneficiaries), the area coordinators, the marketing contact person from the Social Framing Plan in Mandoza, the technician that provided assistance to groups in the area and the marketing agent.

### **2.5.1 Evaluation of the project and its impact on the community**

For any project to be regarded as sustainable, it needs to alleviate poverty to a certain extent. Poverty alleviation projects also need to be evaluated. Φyen et al. (2002:102) evaluated the project to see its impact on the lives of the beneficiaries. The following were indicators that the project was actually alleviating poverty in Mandoza:

- A positive impact on the producers' income as a result of the development of the project,

- Transfer and assimilation of management and organization capabilities to the producers,
- The incorporation of new technologies and knowledge in the production of vegetables,
- Improved self-consumption,
- Improved quality of life for the producers,
- Increased income, and
- Creation of new work opportunities.

Rural Poverty Alleviation Projects, through the best practices, have a potential to be sustainable and improve the quality of life for the poor, as shown by a project in Mandoza, Argentina. The involvement of different stakeholders is one of the best practices for a sustainable project. Every participant, be it the beneficiaries, the technicians, the marketing co-ordinators and the marketing agents has a crucial role to play in the sustainability of a project.

## **2.6 CHINA'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN POVERTY ALLEVIATION**

It is the basic aim of the Chinese government to relieve and eliminate poverty, and achieve the common prosperity of the entire nation. China has shown a remarkable decrease of poor population in rural areas. Agriculture is also one of the most important forms of poverty alleviation in China. The number of people living in poverty, according to People's Daily Online (2007:1), was reduced to 29 million by 2003 from 250 millions in 1978. The Chinese government plays the major role in poverty alleviation. The government leads the drive of poverty relief based on self-reliance with social participation. According to People's Daily Online (2007:1), some of the achievements are shown by the following:

- From 1986 to 2003 about 1.78 hectares of primary farmland were built up in poor areas,
- A batch of farming technologies were popularized with the improvement of scientific farming,
- Non-governmental organization also played a role in poverty relief work. Examples are the "Hope Project" for the pupils in poverty stricken areas and Self – Reliance Project of Poor Rural Households, and

- 15 million farmers were trained to carry out scientific poverty relief projects.

## **2.7 SUB-SAHARAN COUNTRIES' INVOLVEMENT IN POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROJECTS**

Sub-Saharan Africa is the poorest region in the world. The following statistics, according to Mills (2002:86), were considered:

- The total combined annual GNP of its 48 economies is just US\$300millions (roughly the same as Belgium, with just ten million inhabitants), of which more than 40 % is contributed by SA and 11% by Nigeria. The remaining 46 countries – or just 450 million people – survive on US\$140 billions
- The combined GDP is less than US\$300 billion agricultural subsidies allocated annually to the Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries,
- It accounts for less than 2% of world trade, down from 3% in the 1950's. Without South Africa, sub-Saharan Africa's share of the world is only 1%.

About 70 per cent of Africa's poor live in rural areas. Poverty alleviation in most African requires agricultural development. World Bank, according to Kevin (1997:1), shows that a necessary, though not sufficient, conditions for reducing poverty generally is rapid economic growth. Economic growth of about 6 to 7 per cent a year is found to be necessary on an average in Africa to obtain a 2 per cent a year reduction in the number of the poor (Kevin 1997:1).

### **2.7.1 Integrated Rural Development (IRD) Projects.**

The fight against poverty has been a serious problem that faced African states. The establishment of IRD Projects was seen as means of alleviating poverty for the rural poor. In the 1970s African governments and donor agencies began significant investments in the types of agricultural projects such as seed production, agricultural extension, land use planning, and management of the projects by the management units that was expatriate-supported and insulated by the ministry of agriculture (Kevin 1997).

### **2.7.2 West African countries' agricultural conditions**

Agricultural sector in West Africa is not at present capable of meeting the growing demands for its population. Albert (2001:189) indicates that unlike other parts of the

world, the relative incidences of undernutrition in Sub-Saharan African Africa has not decreased but has slightly increased. A study by FAO in 1923 suggested that this situation would hardly improve before 2010 (Albert 2001:189).

The main agro-ecological zones in West Africa, which have agro-ecological potential and constraints, are the savanna desert, the Sudan savanna, the Equatorial rain forest, the Sahel steppe and the Guinea savanna. In the Savanna Desert, the conditions are too severe to allow agro-pastoral land use. The other zones also have a major soil related and climate related production constraints (Albert 2001:190). These zones, as Albert (2001:190) highlighted, may have a potential for agricultural products if careful water management techniques can be applied. The techniques that can be applied in these zones are the mulch, bounds and water–harvesting measures. Fertilization of West African soil is also critically important for sustainable development. Several techniques for restoring soil fertility are available, including mineral fertilizers, organic fertilizers, and mineral soil amendments (including by-products and rock phosphate) (Albert 2001:191).

### **2.7.3 Socio-economic constraints to farming in West Africa**

On-farm investments in West Africa, unlike other parts of Africa, have been hampered because many farmers are living on the edge of subsistence and therefore have a high individual discount rate. The following are socio-economic constraints that hamper farming in West Africa (Koning, Heerink and Kaufman 2001:190):

- Land-use rights become increasingly insecure as a result of demographic growth, confusing official legal policies, and contradictions between official land laws and traditional titles.
- Many African states are characterized by a high degree of political instability, which gives further insecurity to farmers.
- Many African staple foods have not benefited from green revolution-type of technological breakthrough. Improved varieties of grains and legumes have been introduced, but sometimes possess undesirable attributes; i.e. they are difficult to store and have inferior taste.
- Low population densities have hampered the development of markets and raised the loss of physical and social infrastructure per head. Lack of

infrastructure has increased the difference between prices in rural and urban markets.

- Work ethics in Africa have been formed through a history of a long fallow agriculture and pastoral nomadism and, especially with male workers; have not always been conducive to intensification of agricultural production.

West Africa is encountering a serious problem in farming and that will always be difficult to establish rural poverty alleviation projects. Socio-economic conditions need to be addressed before West-African communities can think of having sustainable poverty alleviation projects that deal with agricultural activities.

#### **2.7.4 The role of Independent Development Enterprises in alleviating poverty in Africa**

NGO's can also play an important role in the development of the rural communities. These are private, self-governing, non-profit organizations promoting people-centred development (Davids, Theron and Mapungwe 2005:67). Their primary objective is to render assistance to individuals from developing communities in order to promote sustainable development at grassroots. NGOs are institutionally independent of the government as they are under the control of independent board of directors or trustees. Their activities are financed mainly through grants.

IDE is a unique non-governmental organization that has been helping the poor farmers in developing countries to address poverty for more than 25 years (IDE: 2007 1). This is done by creating market conditions that enable the rural people to become successful market participants. The following are done to assist the poor small farmers to progress from subsistence agriculture to commercial farming: i.e. developing technologies that the poor can use to generate income, identifying market opportunities that can be exploited by the poor people, ensuring that everyone in the market network, especially the smallholders, receive a fair profit and establish a supply chain to deliver technologies to the poor at affordable prices.

#### **2.7.5 The role played by Millennium Promise in alleviating poverty in Africa**

Hundreds of thousand of lives in the poorest regions of Africa are changing for the better today because of Millennium Promise. Through its flagship initiatives called Millennium Village, Millennium Promise operates in 78 villages across ten countries



in sub-Saharan Africa on their way to self-sustainable development. The villagers supply the hard work, local knowledge and leadership to overcome their situation. The aim of Millennium Promise is to achieve Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)- eight globally endorsed objectives that address many aspects of extreme poverty in Africa by 2015. The Millennium Villages are based on a single powerful idea that is that impoverished villages can transform themselves and meet MDGs by 2015 if they are empowered with proven, powerful, practical technologies. The Millennium Development Goals are eight goals to be achieved by 2015 that respond to the world's main development challenges (MDGs: 2000). They are:

- Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. The targets of this goal are reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day and also to reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.
- Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education.
- Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women.
- Goal 4: Reduce child mortality.
- Goal 5: Improve maternal health.
- Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.
- Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability.
- Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for development.

One of the Millennium Villages is based in Tanzania, located in East Africa. Half of the million people who live there struggle to survive on less than \$1 a day. The villagers plant crops and are also supplied with fertilizers (Millennium Promise 2007:3).

#### **2.7.6 Policies that can assist poverty alleviation projects to be sustainable**

For every project that is established, there need to be policies that will make them sustainable. Every poverty alleviation project is established with the aim of producing and marketing the products. The government is responsible for having policies in place for the sustainability of the projects. Fick (2006:18) identified the following policies that can assist farmers in the sustainable development in Africa:

- Economic programmes that are geared to help the group or the families to be successful in alleviating poverty.

- Farmers should be provided with reasonable private financing for land, equipment, and supplies of fertilizers, seeds and pesticides, in addition to an efficient and competitive market for their surplus, and extension services from experts.
- Farmers should be given access to land, credit, technology and the knowledge that would help them grow more resistant crops as well as ensuring plant and animal safety.
- Priority should be given to the agricultural sector's adequately feeding all the people within its society.
- Government policies should help the struggling farm families and the entrepreneurs in Africa and reflect solutions developed out of African genius on African soil and in tune with the African spirit and family values.
- Local producers should have ready access to markets, should be able to know the status of the markets in advance, and should have access to adequate credit.
- Entrepreneurs and businesses' leaders who are successful in Africa should strive to give back to their communities

The President of Uganda, Yoweri Museveni, during the World Food Summit in 2002, pointed out that 75 per cent of the African poor in sub-Saharan Africa are rural people, obtaining their livelihood from agricultural activities or non farm activities that depend mostly on agriculture (Fick 2006:449). President Museveni indicated that there are two ways in which food can be produced. It can either be produced for subsistence or for a market. In the modern context, according to Museveni, the only sustainable way of producing food is to produce food for the market and then use earnings to finance all other needs (Fick 2006:449). The Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Meles Zenani, agreed with President Museveni that transforming subsistence agriculture into small-scale farming is a key element of Africa's strategy (Fick 2006:449).

## **2.8 POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMMES IN SOUTH AFRICA**

According to the ANC (1994:14), poverty is the single greatest burden of South Africa's people, and is a direct result of the apartheid system. Attacking poverty is the first priority of the new democratic government. As poverty manifests itself

mostly in rural communities, poverty alleviation projects can play a prominent role in meeting the basic needs of the poor. The strategies for meeting these basic needs, according to the ANC (1994:15), rest on two pillars: creating opportunities for all South Africans to develop to their full potential, and boosting production and households' income through job creation, job production, productivity and efficiency, and creating opportunities for all to sustain themselves through productive activities.

In the 2004 national elections, the ANC received a clear mandate to implement programmes to achieve the objectives of Vision 2014 (ANC 2007:9). These objectives include among others, to reduce unemployment by half through new jobs, skills development, assistance to small businesses, opportunities for self-employment and sustainable community livelihoods; and to reduce poverty by half through economic development, comprehensive social security, land reform and improved household and community assets.

The new South Africa has come up with directives to promote development, to alleviate poverty and also ensure sustainable livelihoods. The Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) is the recent policy framework that has informed and continues to inform several attempts to combat poverty at various line departments. Notable departments that combat poverty are the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Social Development. The Department of Agriculture, through its economic development initiatives, is committed to reducing poverty in South Africa and the continent, broadening access to agriculture and increasing productivity and profitability within the agricultural sector (Burger 2005/06:74). The Department of Social Development also manages the Poverty Relief Programme that assists the communities in a range of developmental projects. According to Burger (2005/06:408), the programme has established about 408 projects throughout the country. These projects have been handed over to the communities to promote ownership by the communities. Projects like Maratapelo Poultry and Mangakane Bakery are some of the projects that were established and are still monitored by the Department of Social Development.

Agriculture is one of South Africa's most important poverty alleviators. Although agricultural production makes a small contribution to households, over one third of

rural households continue to engage in agricultural production, making it the third most important livelihood tactic in rural areas after remittance and wages for low-skilled jobs (May 2000:234).

### **2.8.1 Donors' involvement in poverty alleviation programme**

Eskom, through the Development Foundation, approved an amount of R450 000-00 in 2003 to support the government's efforts to alleviate poverty. The beneficiaries of this programme were mostly women and people with disabilities. The following are some of the identified projects that benefited from Eskom Poverty Alleviation Programme per South Africa's rural provinces:

- In Limpopo, Mmakotsi Women's Club was identified as a rural poverty alleviation project. It has a membership of 12 made up of 11 females and 1 man. This project has different activities that include vegetable garden, egg production, a bakery, a home-based care services, a drop centre and skills development. A donation from Eskom in the form of gardening tools, seeds and fertilizers assisted in the running of the project.
- The Tswellang Pele Bomme Project was a poverty alleviation project that was identified in the Free State Province. This project is managed by 36 women with the aim of supplying vegetables for the market. The Development Foundation grant was used to purchase garden tools and fertilizers.
- In Mpumalanga, a poverty alleviation project called Zonke Project, which involved 10 women, got the grant. The local authority allocated the project land and the Department of Agriculture pledged its support. The donation was used to purchase garden equipment and seedlings to ensure that there is a productive food garden.
- In the Eastern Cape, the Lugaswini Village in Port Shepstone was chosen as the poverty alleviation project for 2003. The community decided to start a community garden and the grant was used to purchase garden tools.

Apart from Eskom, other donor agencies play an important role in the assistance of rural poverty alleviation projects. This assistance comes in the form of grants or loans. Nel, Matteux, Barrat, Ivongwe (Nel and Hill 2000:211) identified some poverty alleviation projects that were assisted through grants and loans. Zamukphila Women's co-operation is a poverty alleviation project that was started by 15 women

in Upsher village, near Balfour in 1994. According to Nel et al. (2001:11), Zamukphila, which means “trying to survive”, was established because of low level of income and nutrition, particularly among their children and also men squandering their monies on alcohol (Nel and Hill 2000:211). These women established a community vegetable garden. They then approached Ciskei State Agricultural Corporation for assistance, which allocated approximately two hectares of land and also provided irrigation water. Although the project had mixed fortune, the women were able to supplement their household income from the sale of produce in 1996. Achievement of the projects should not be based on economic gains only. The beneficiaries of this project gained a sense of independence and self-achievement.

Philani Community Development Project was established in December 1994 under the leadership of Sandile Mkonto, a local primary school teacher. According to Nel et al., the key priorities of this poverty alleviation project were skills development, vegetable production and bead-making Nel and Hill (2000:213). A loan of R30 000-00 was obtained from Eastern Cape Development Agency (ECDA) to purchase seed potatoes and train community members. The potato growing scheme of the project foundered owing to theft by what Mkonto described as “starving people”.

The Seymour Development Forum is another poverty alleviation project that deals with community gardens. It was established in 1992 at Seymour in the Eastern Cape. A Dutch aid agency agreed to make a grant of R500 000-00 to establish a development agency in the town. Plots were allocated to the poorest of the poor in the community. This would enable the individual smallholders to supplement their household foods.

The government, together with donor agencies, plays an important role in the sustainability of poverty alleviation projects, thus promoting people-centered development. Donor agencies make funds available to projects as a means of alleviating poverty. Improved agricultural technologies and available markets can assist projects to sustain themselves.

## **2.9 POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN THE LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

The Limpopo Province is the northern-most province of South Africa. It is a gateway to the rest of Africa as it shares borders with Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. In 1994, Limpopo was referred to as the smallest provincial economy after the Northern Cape and the poorest after the Eastern Cape (Limpopo Growth and Development Strategy 2004:3).

Limpopo has a strong rural basis. Its growth strategy, according to Burger (2005/6:18), centres on addressing infrastructure backlog, the alleviation of poverty and social development. The province has developed and adopted a Provincial Growth and Development Strategy (PGDS). One of the strategy's basic principles is an integrated and development approach that brings together strategies and programmes from different spheres of government together towards achieving sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction and unemployment (LGDS 2004:7). Limpopo has adopted five development objectives for itself, whose indicators correspond with those of the Millennium Development Goals (LGDS 2004:19). These objectives are:

- The need to improve the quality of life of the people of Limpopo. Improved quality of life means the elimination of poverty and unemployment, improved literacy level, improved life expectancy, and improved access to basic services and a reduced dependency ratio in the context of a growing economy.
- Growing the economy of the province, sustainable job creation, innovation and competitiveness. Growing the economy to create jobs and wealth is a necessary condition towards sustainable development.
- Improve the institutional efficiency and effectiveness of Government.
- Address priorities that cut across the three objectives above, such as Black economic Empowerment, HIV/AIDS-TB, poverty reduction, issue of Land and Environment, etc, and
- Attain regional integration.

### **2.9.1 The provincial departments' involvement in poverty alleviation.**

As alluded to earlier, the most notable departments that deal with poverty alleviation projects are the Departments of Agriculture and Social development. In particular, the contribution of women to poverty alleviation is being recognized and

encouraged. As pointed out in Sowetan 20 August 2007, the MEC for Agriculture, Dikedi Magadzi, honoured women who have achieved in agricultural projects (Matlala 2007:6). The women entered an annual competition for those who stopped at nothing to change their lives and those of the community. The MEC indicated that the competition seeks to recognize women's contribution towards wealth creation, poverty alleviation and increasing their feasibility in the agricultural fraternity. These women are, according to the MEC, expected to cultivate a homestead garden, which allows them to grow their vegetables in their own backyards (Matlala 2007:6). They can also come together and establish a project to produce food to generate income in an effort to fight poverty and participate fully in the mainstream economy.

## **2.10 CONCLUSION**

Poverty alleviation requires universal access to economic opportunities that will promote sustainable development. People living in poverty need to be empowered through participation, thus enabling them to become genuine partners in development. Many developing countries are winning a fight against poverty through agricultural activities, but there are still serious problems in Africa. The socio-conditions in Africa make difficult for the communities to establish poverty alleviation projects.

South Africa is also having a problem of sustainable rural poverty alleviation projects. Though the government, through policy frameworks like RDP, attempts to combat poverty, there are still serious problems with alleviating poverty. Donor agencies are also playing an important role through grants and loans. It is hoped that the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals will play an important part in the fight against poverty. In the chapter that follows the study will focus on the design of the study, selection and description of the study area, population and sampling, choice of instruments, and also data collection procedures.

## **CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 INTRODUCTION**

In this research methodology chapter, the researcher described the design of the study, including the selection of the site, the role of the researcher, initial entry observation, time and length of the study, the number of participants and how they were selected as well as data collection strategies (McMillan and Schumacher, 2001:55). In this research, the researcher's approach focused on the implementation of methods that would yield meaningful research results. The methods involved were the type of research, research design, population and sampling, choice of instruments and data collection procedures.

### **3.2 TYPE OF RESEARCH**

The qualitative research approach was utilized in this study. The researcher utilized qualitative research as this approach is concerned with the understanding of human beings. Qualitative research, according to Creswell (2003:181), possesses the following characteristics:

- It takes place in a natural setting. In qualitative research, the researcher goes to the site of the participants to conduct research.
- It uses multiple methods that are interactive and humanistic. This means that the methods of data collection increasingly involve the active participation by the participants and sensitivity to the participants in the study.
- It is emergent rather than tightly prefigured. This means that several aspects of research emerge in a qualitative study.
- It is fundamentally interpretive. The researcher using qualitative research makes his conclusions from the interpretation of data he has collected.

This type of study was deemed suitable to the study of sustainability of rural poverty alleviation projects because it would give the researcher first-hand information on the respondents' knowledge and experience of poverty alleviation projects. Even though qualitative research is employed, a quantitative research was also minimally employed because these types of research usually supplement one another. White (2004:17) indicates that the researcher can combine the qualitative and quantitative research types in a single study in order to investigate a particular research problem. Many researchers use both types as the distinctions between qualitative and quantitative research methods are not absolute when conducting a research.



### **3.3 RESEARCH DESIGN**

Research design is a plan for selecting subjects, research site and data collection procedures that assist the researcher in answering research questions. According to McMillan and Schumacher (2001:167), a sound research design provides results that are judged to be credible. Results are credible when they approximate reality and are judged to be trustworthy and reasonable. A good research design provides a credible answer to research questions and errors reduce the credibility of the results. The researcher in this study employed a survey research. This was employed as survey research involves the selection of a sample of subjects and the administering of a structured questionnaire to collect data. In designing the research, the researcher took into account the three useful purposes of research design, i.e. exploration, description and explanation. By means of exploration, the study satisfied the researcher's curiosity about the factors that contribute to lack of sustainability of poverty alleviation projects in rural communities. The researcher was also able to have a better understanding of those projects. By means of description, the researcher was able to describe the situation and conditions of the projects. Every project has its own profile, detailing how it was established, its achievements and also its problems. The purpose of scientific research is also to explain things. The researcher in this study was able to explain the settings and the activities.

### **3.4 POPULATION**

A population is a total collection of individuals available, who exhibit features that the researcher is concerned with. Barbie (2007:190) defines a population as theoretically a specified aggregation of elements in a study. It is that aggregate of elements from which the sample was actually selected. The population of this study included all the project members involved in poverty alleviation projects at Ga-Chuene. The place is in Ward 1 of Polokwane Municipality. Ga-Chuene comprises of villages, namely Moshate, Marulaneng, Maratapelo, Thokgoaneng, Sepanapudi, and Ga-Phiri.

### **3.5 SAMPLING METHOD**

It was naturally impractical to involve a large population of all poverty alleviation projects in Ward 1. A limited number of projects were selected, as the members

thereof have that potential to give the researcher more accurate information that might have been obtained if the researcher had studied the entire population. The sampling method employed in the study was cluster sampling. Cluster sampling, as a probability sampling, was employed because each person had the same known probability of being selected in the study. According to De Vos et al. (2004:206), cluster sampling has an advantage of concentrating the field of study in a specific area, thus saving costs and time. The projects that were selected were homogeneous in that their purpose is similar, i.e. poverty alleviation through poverty alleviation projects. The projects selected were also heterogeneous in that various types of projects were established. There were various types of projects like vegetable gardens, brick-making, poultry farming, bakeries and fence-making, from which the researcher had to choose from. The researcher selected Maratapelo Poultry, Mangakane Bakery, Thokgoaneng People's Bakery and Chuene Hydroponic Project. Maratapelo Poultry specializes in vegetable gardening and brick-making.

### **3.6 AREA OF STUDY**

The researcher investigated the two villages with potential projects. The areas under investigation were Thokgoaneng and Maratapelo, which are the biggest villages at Ga-Chuene. These villages are in Ward 1 of Polokwane Municipality of Capricorn District Municipality. The areas are found about 35 kilometers south of Polokwane City, along the Burgersfort road. According to Statistics South Africa (2007), Ga-Chuene has a population of 4965 people, comprising of 2293 male and 2672 female. The population of the two villages under investigation, i.e. Thokgoaneng and Maratapelo, is estimated at half of the whole population of Ga-Chuene. The villages are under chief Chuene, who was also instrumental in the establishment of the projects. She gave land freely to the project members so as to assist them in alleviating poverty in the community.

Many people at Ga-Chuene rely on the city for employment. There are those who are hawkers, commuting daily to the city for their business. This is because of the unemployment rate, which is rife in the province. The unemployment rate at this place is at 73% as shown by Statistics South Africa (2007). The number of unemployed adults is 1058 (Statistics South Africa 2007). Most people in the area depend on child support grant, old-age grant and foster care grant for their survival

This is a proof that many people at this place trapped in poverty circle and the chances of getting out are remote, unless they establish poverty alleviation projects that are sustainable.

### **3.7 PROFILE OF THE PROJECTS**

#### **3.7.1 MARATAPELO POULTRY AND BRICK-MAKING PROJECT**

The Maratapelo Poultry and Brick-Making Project was established in 2000 by 28 members. There were 4 men and 24 women, who included 3 female youths. The project deals with poultry farming, a vegetable garden and brickmaking. The aim of establishing a project was to alleviate poverty and create job opportunities for the unemployed people of the Maratapelo community.

The project members applied for donations from different companies and also from the government departments, especially The Departments of Agriculture, and Health and Social Development. The Department of Health and social Development donated an amount of R244 000-00 for the establishment of this project in 2000. The donation was used to build an administrative block of four offices, a broiler house and an egg-laying chicken house. The money was also used to fence the yard and electrify the offices. The members also managed to drill a borehole, purchase twelve hand brick-making machines and also garden equipment like spades, wheelbarrows, garden forks and rakes. The Department of Agriculture, Limpopo Province, donated cages for egg-laying chickens. The department also made two boreholes, and supplied green tanks and an irrigation system for a vegetable garden.

The Amalgamated Banks of South Africa (ABSA) also came in handy as it donated an amount of R175 000-00 in 2001. The project members took a decision to purchase a motor vehicle (van) worth R94 000-00. That vehicle is playing an important role as it assists members to market their produce like eggs, chickens and vegetables. Some of the money was used to erect shade for brick-makers, and also to purchase a brick-making machine.

Although the project is not making much profit, according to the project members, it is better than most projects as it is able to remunerate the members. The members are remunerated with amounts ranging from R600-00 to R700-00, depending on the

profit generated for that month. This comes in handy as all the members, except one, who was employed by the Department of Home Affairs after the project was established, are the family breadwinners. Considering the little amount the project is giving members, they are able to meet few of their basic needs. Most of the project members, especially women, rely mainly on the child support grant and old age grant received by their elders.

The project has serious problems that may lead to its collapse in future. The market is always low during winter as it relies on the local people and the low Thokgoaneng low cost housing village that was established some few years ago. Lebowakgomo residents do also buy the produce, especially chickens, eggs and vegetables, but not in great numbers to sustain a project. It is believed that if big markets in Polokwane City were interested in their produce, especially vegetables as they are in great demand there, they would be able to have a sustainable poverty alleviation project. There is also a problem of producing sub-standard chickens in winter. The machines they are using are not of a good quality as they could not manage to generate enough funds to purchase high quality ones.

### **3.7.2 MANGAKANE BAKERY**

The project was established in February 2001. It was established by 30 members comprising twenty-two females, including seven female youth, and eight males that included three youths. The main aim of the project was to alleviate poverty and through the supply of bread, rolls, buns and “vetkoek” to the community and the neighbouring villages.

The Department of Health and Social Development funded the project to the tune of R227 000-00. The project also received a donation of R11 000-00 from Eskom. The money they received was used to build the bakery, fence the yard, electrify the bakery building, and also to buy bakery equipment like ovens. The project managed to purchase a delivery motor vehicle (van) so that they could deliver at the local shops. It also managed to get a tender for the supply of bread to Seshego Hospital, but that deal fell off when the van was involved in an accident and was written off.

The project is situated along the road between Polokwane and Lebowakgomo. It is situated at a strategic and convenient place for business as it is accessible to both the community and passers-by, but it is facing serious problems in marketing the products. There is a stiff competition for their products. Very few people buy its products and that is not enough to make this project more sustainable. The “vetkoek” and buns are the ones in great demand but it is not enough to make a profit that can remunerate the project members satisfactorily to meet all their basic needs. There is also a problem of commitment from the members. This is caused by a meagre remuneration of about R300-00 per month, depending on the profit for that month.

### **3.7.3 CHUENE-MAJA HYDROPONIC PROJECT**

The project was established in 2000. This project had about 84 members, who decreased to 32 in 2001 due to lack of payment. The aim of the project was to alleviate poverty in the form of producing tomatoes in large quantities and selling to local people, street vendors and local fruit market in Polokwane. A land of six hectares was acquired from the local authority for the purpose of this project.

An amount of R500 000-00 was granted by the Department of Health and Social Development. This money was used to erect a six meter fence, make a borehole, buy garden tools like garden spades, garden forks, wheelbarrows, and also buy an electric generator. The project also erected a net-house to the tune of R245 000-00 as hydroponics products are produced inside a net-house. Agricultural Research Council donated sprinklers, water meters in the net-house and also the hydroponics tomato plants. The first tomato harvest was in September 2001. Even if the major specialization of the project was the production of tomatoes, the members supplemented those with other vegetables that are in demand in the villages like spinach, carrots, onions and beet-root.

The problems encountered by the project are plenty. During the first harvesting time, there was less production as anticipated by the project members. The profit made as not sufficient to pay the members, thus failing to sustain itself. The members' commitment is very poor as they do not want to work without payments, which is understandable as many are breadwinners. There is also a water shortage even if

there is a borehole. This borehole cannot operate because there is no electricity. The project relies on water from a community supply, but that is unreliable as the community goes weeks without water. The community also has a problem of members not working voluntarily, which is a requirement for a poverty alleviation project. Local people want to be employed, rather than being the owners of a project. This causes commitment to be very poor. Poor marketing skills, as shown by rotten tomatoes that could not be sold, are also a serious problem of the project.

#### **3.7.4 THOKGOANENG PEOPLE'S BAKERY**

This project was established in November after the community consultative meetings about the establishment of a poverty alleviation project. This was the brainchild of two gentlemen of Thokgoaneng, Thomas Mogale and Albert Chuene, who were the public servants in the Departments of Health and Social Development and Education respectively. These gentlemen felt that there was need for the poor of Thokgoaneng to establish the projects to assist them in alleviating poverty in the community. The main aim of the project was to supply bread and buns to the community and surrounding villages. It was established by about 25 people, who were comprised of males, females and youth.

The project got funding of R200 000 00 from the Department of Health and Social Development. Old Mutual also made a donation of R83 000 00. The money received was used to fence the yard, build a bakery and electrify it, also made a borehole. This money was also used to purchase bakery equipment like ovens, and buy the first stock of flour, yeast and sugar.

The main customers of this project are the local pre-schools, and the community of Thokgoaneng. The project gains more money from the orders during funerals, wedding and parties. There are also problems that are encountered by the project. The main problem of the project is irregular remuneration. Members sometimes get a remuneration of about R200 00, which is insufficient to meet their basic needs. There is always a great loss of income caused by unreliable electricity, which is switched off without prior warning.

#### **3.8 DATA COLLECTION METHODS**

The following data collection methods were employed:

### **3.8.1 Observation**

Time was spent with the project members so that the researcher became familiar with the work, and also gained experience with the work being done by the project members. Field notes were documented, and the questions posed in an open manner about the sustainability or lack of sustainability of poverty alleviation projects.

### **3.8.2 Interviews**

Qualitative interviews were utilized in this envisaged study. Rubin and Rubin (1995:31, as cited by Mouton 2005:196), indicate that qualitative interviewing emphasizes relativism of culture, the active participation of the interviewer, and the importance of giving the interviewee a voice. A scheduled structured interview questionnaire was first prepared and used to collect data. The researcher was closely involved with the participants to ensure that there was no misunderstanding of the questions by the participants.

### **3.8.3 Use of documentation**

Documents like media reports and information available on the Internet were collected and integrated with data obtained from observations and scheduled structured interview questionnaires. Data from all available sources about the sustainability of poverty alleviation projects was integrated to conclude the data collection stage.

## **3.9 DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURES**

The data for this research was collected through a structured questionnaire. This type of a questionnaire was found to be the most appropriate as, according to De Vos et. al (2004:174), much time and costs are saved when a group of respondents are handled simultaneously, and consequently, the respondents are exposed to the same stimulus. A questionnaire was structured in such a way that it should be understood by all the project members, taking the level of most members' level of education into consideration. A structured questionnaire was used as it is a widely

used technique for obtaining information from respondents. It was also used as it is relatively economical and had simple and standard statements.

The aspects that received much attention when working on a questionnaire were its general principles. Some of the general principles of a questionnaire, according to White (2004:67), are that it should be attractive, brief and easy to fill, and also be well planned. The questionnaire was divided into four categories of bibliographical information, sustainability of poverty alleviation projects, problems encountered by the project members, as well as the factors that can contribute to the sustainability of poverty alleviation projects. A questionnaire is always in the form of questions or statements, but in all cases the respondents respond to something that is written. The researcher in this study constructed a questionnaire with the statements only. It was structured in such a way that only close-ended statements were used to limit the respondent to the alternatives as determined in advance by the researcher. The length of a questionnaire was influenced by the information the researcher needed to acquire from the project members.

Each project was visited individually as the researcher could not secure an appointment and a venue for all the projects respondents at the same time. This was because in some projects members work in shifts and they were ready to make a sacrifice to come to their projects at the time determined by themselves. There was more than one visit to the site where information was to be collected. The first visits were for the researcher to observe of the setting the project, the activities that were taking place and the people who participate in those activities and their participation. The last visit was for data collection through the structured interview questionnaires. The researcher first conducted an interview with the respondents before they could complete a questionnaire. The respondents who were selected were given a chance to complete their questionnaires on their own without discussing anything with their colleagues. The presence of the researcher during the completion of the questionnaires was very important as he was able to give certain instructions and also clear up uncertainties that were raised by the respondents.

### **3.10 CONCLUSION**

This chapter dealt mainly with research methodology with the focus on research processes and the kinds of tools and procedures to be utilized. The study utilized a



survey study but took the three purposes of study, i.e. exploration, description and explanation into consideration. The population and sample were selected from poverty alleviation projects at Ga-Chuene villages. The projects from which a population and a sample were selected were profiled for a better understanding of how they were established and how they operate. During the data collection process, a scheduled structured interview questionnaire was utilized. In the chapter that follows, the focus will be on the research findings, data analysis and interpretation.

#### **CHAPTER 4: RESEARCH FINDINGS, DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION**

## **4.1 INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of this chapter is twofold. The first purpose is to analyze of the findings obtained from the respondents during research. The other reason is to make an interpretation of the analysis in order to arrive at a conclusion from the findings. The researcher investigated lack of sustainability of poverty alleviation projects and measures that can be taken to make them sustainable in order to better the lives of the poor in those areas researched. Data was collected through the use of structured questionnaires. The participants responded to a list of statements that assisted the researcher to obtain information needed for this research. During data analysis, a coding process was adopted, where coding stages were followed to facilitate interpretation.

## **4.2 RESEARCH FINDINGS, DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATIONS**

The researcher used a scheduled structured interview questionnaire to obtain the information required. In order to achieve the objective of the research, the researcher used a scheduled structured interview questionnaire to seek information on biographical issues, sustainability of poverty alleviation projects, problems encountered and factors promoting sustainability in poverty alleviation projects. The presentation of the results and their discussion will therefore, be based on the aforementioned sub-headings.

### **4.2.1 Biographical Information**

Every participant had to give information about him/her so that the researcher would know personal information about the participants. They had to give information about their gender, marital status, age, number of dependants, educational qualifications, years in the project and the villages where their projects are situated.

### **4.2.2 Sustainability of poverty alleviation projects**

The participants had to give information about the initiators of the project, the management, whether training is provided or not, what type of training, remuneration and the support rate of the community, the government and project sustainability.

### **4.2.3 Problems encountered in the management of poverty alleviation projects**

Poverty alleviation projects are unable to sustain themselves due to problems encountered by the members. Participants had to indicate whether the projects are

sustainable or not, have financial problems, the quality of their produce, the theft rate, members' commitment rate, land issues and the provision of job opportunities.

#### 4.2.4 Factors that can promote sustainability of poverty alleviation projects

It is vital for the projects' members to look into factors that are vital for the sustainability of their projects. Factors that the participants had to respond to were the involvement of various departments, the unemployed as the sole managers of the projects, the funding issue, gender consideration, markets and the issue of bank loans.

### 4.3 RESEARCH FINDINGS

The research findings in this research are presented as follows; biographical information, sustainability of poverty alleviation projects, problems encountered in managing poverty alleviation and factors promoting sustainability in poverty alleviation projects.

**Table 4.1 Gender of participants**

	Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
Male	7	8.4	8.4	8.4
Female	76	91.6	91.6	100
Total	83	100	100	

Table 4.1 indicates that there are more women than men in the projects in the research area. There were females are 76, who constitutes 91.6% of the total sample, while there were 7 males (8.4%) project members. It can, therefore, be concluded that projects are more appealing to females than to the males. Males usually prefer working and earning wages, rather than being the owners of the projects. The reason males prefer being employed is that as breadwinners, they are

supposed to provide for the families on a daily basis. The uncertainties of profit in poverty alleviation projects make males lose interest in participating in such projects.

**Table 4.2 Marital status**

	Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
<b>Single</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>38.6</b>	<b>38.6</b>	<b>38.6</b>
<b>Married</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>47.0</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>85.5</b>
<b>Widowed</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-</b>

Table 4.2 indicates that these projects are managed mainly by married women, who are 39 in number and constitute 47% of the respondents in the research area. There are 32 single women (38.6%), while there are 12 widows and constitute 14.5% of the respondents in the study. It can then be argued that poverty alleviation projects are more appealing to married women than to both the single and widowed women in rural areas. This is because most married women in rural areas are not employed and have enough time to participate in such projects. Apart from the money they get from their working husbands, some married women still feel there is a need to augment their husbands' income, hence their participation in these projects. Most single women and widows prefer employment where they will earn a salary for their families' support, since they have no husbands to rely on.

**Table 4.3 Ages of the participants**

Years	Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
25 to 35	30	36.1	36.1	36.1
Over 35	53	63.9	63.9	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	

Table 4.3 indicates that most participants (63, 9%) in poverty alleviation projects were over 35 years of age. There were 53 respondents in this group and constituted 63.9% of the respondents in the research area. Only 30 respondents were between 25 and 35 years and constituted 36.1% of the sample. There were no participants below the age of 25 years. It can, therefore, be argued that poverty alleviation projects are not appealing to many youths in the research area. The youth prefer a decent job for a living or a business that will bring quick cash. Most youth may regard these projects as things that belong to the elders in their area, or they just don't see any possibility of making a decent living out of poverty alleviation projects in their area.

**Table 4.4 Number of dependants**

	Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
No Child	9	10.8	10.8	10.8
1 to 3 Children	47	56.6	32.5	100
More than 3	27	32.5	32.5	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	

Table 4.4 indicates that there were 47 (56.6%) participants with 1 to 3 children or dependants. There were 27 (32.5%) respondents with more than 3 dependants. There were only 9 (10.8%) respondents who do not have dependants. From this it can then be deduced that most people who do not have dependants do not see a need to engage in poverty alleviation projects. People who engage in poverty alleviation projects are those who have dependants as they see a need to support their families. The responsibility of supporting a family should not rest upon fathers only. In places where there is an opportunity of poverty alleviation projects, unemployed women have a role to play in supporting their families through poverty alleviation projects.

**Figure 4.1 Educational qualifications**

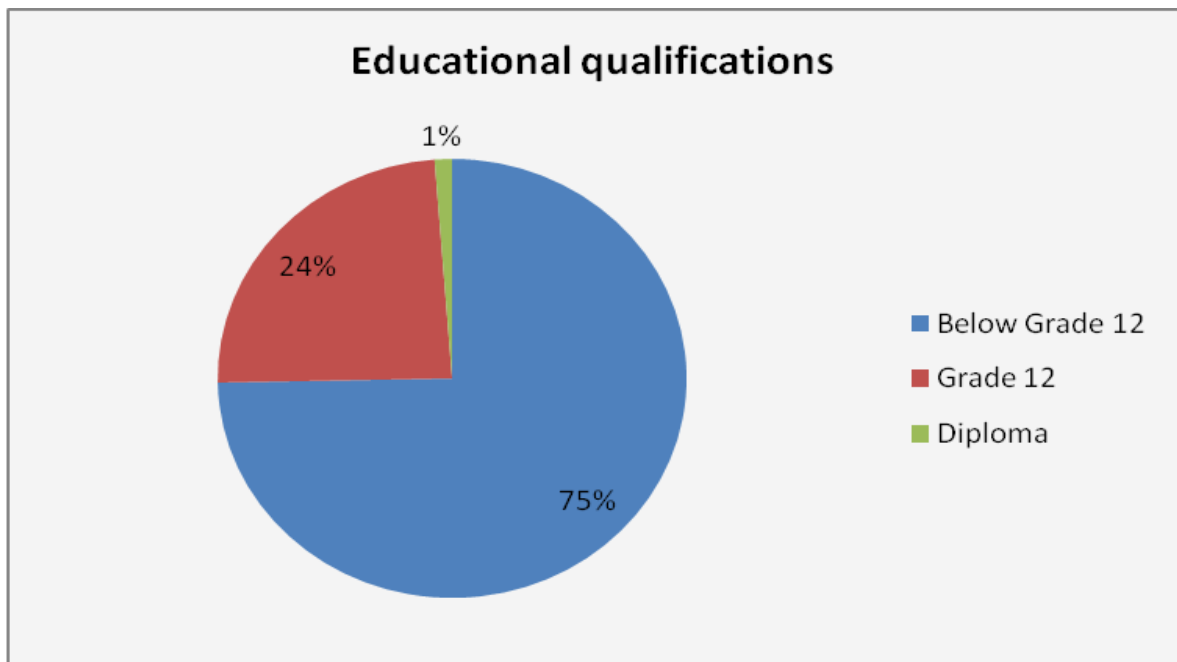


Figure 4.1 indicates that 62 (75.0) participants in the study had a qualification below Grade 12. There were 20 (24.0) participants who constitute (24.0%), who had Grade 12 only. Only 1 participant, constituting (1.2%) of the respondents, had a qualification above the Grade 12 qualification. The deduction made in this regard is that most participants in rural poverty alleviation projects do not have grade 12, which is a problem as the management of sustainable poverty alleviation projects needs people who are able to read and write. People who manage the projects need to be trained in different fields and that will be a problem if these projects are

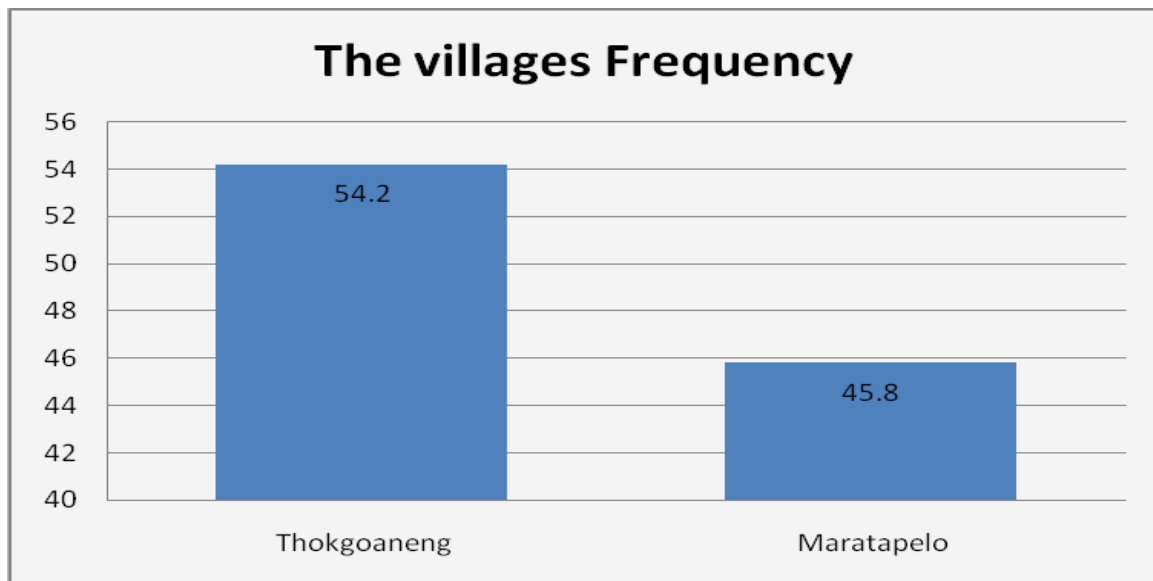
managed by people whose qualifications are below Grade 12, particularly if their reading and writing skills are inadequate.

**Table 4.5 Years in the project**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Valid Percentage</b>	<b>Cumulative Percentage</b>
<b>Less than 3 years</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>12.0</b>
<b>3 to 5 years</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>45.8</b>	<b>45.8</b>	<b>57.8</b>
<b>More than 5 years</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>42.2</b>	<b>42.2</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	

The table above indicates that there were 10 (12.0%) participants with less than 3 years in the projects in the study. There were 38 (45.8%) participants with 3 to 5 years involvement in the projects. Thirty-five (42.2%) participants had more than 5 years involvement in the projects. The conclusion here is that most project members are not the founder members of these projects. Most of the projects were established in 2000 and 2001, which is more than 5 years since the establishment. Some members joined later for various reasons. There were those who joined because they started to realize the importance of poverty alleviation projects in uplifting the standard of living. Some joined because they were just recruited by their friends or family members. There were members who left due to lack of remuneration or were employed somewhere, hence the most current members of the projects have been involved between less than 3 and 5 years. Even though more members joined the projects later, there are still enough left to give reliable information about sustainability of poverty alleviation projects.

**Figure 4.2 The villages**



The figure above indicates that Thokgoaneng village has 45 members, which is 54.2% of the total respondents, who participate in poverty alleviation projects. Maratapelo village has 38 members who constitute 45.8% of the 83 participants who completed the questionnaire about sustainability of projects in the area. It can then be argued that poverty alleviation projects at Thokgoaneng have more members than those at Maratapelo. The main reason why more people are found at Thokgoaneng was that one of the projects was so huge that it even appealed to people outside Thokgoaneng, but within the jurisdiction of Ga-Chuene.

**Table 4.6 Project initiators**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
<b>Project members</b>	7	8.4	8.4	8.4
<b>Community</b>	76	91.6	100	—
<b>Total</b>	83	100		—



The table above indicates that 7 participants (8.4%) were the ones who initiated their project. There were 76 members (91.6%) whose projects were initiated by the community. It can, therefore, be argued that the projects at Thokgoaneng and Maratapelo are initiated in a community meeting, where everybody is given a chance to be part of the projects. The projects are not for a select few but they are meant for everybody in a community, especially the poor, who are prepared to alleviate poverty in rural areas.

**Table 4.7 The project management**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Valid Percentage</b>	<b>Cumulative Percentage</b>
<b>Manager</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>83.1</b>	<b>84.1</b>	<b>84.1</b>
<b>Community</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>91.5</b>
<b>All project members</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>98.8</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Missing system</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1.2</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>100</b>		

The table above indicates that there were 69 participants (83.1%) whose projects have a manager. There were 6 participants (7.3%) who indicated that their project(s) is(are) managed by the community, while 7 participants (8.4%) indicated that all the members are involved in the management of the projects. All respondents indicated that there is a form of management even though the projects are managed differently. The deduction that can be made here is that the manager, selected from among the project beneficiaries, is preferred by the project members for the smooth

running of a project by the project members. For a project to be sustainable there needs to be someone who is accountable, where everybody will have to report to, and who will see to it that the day to day responsibilities of the project members are carried out as described by the management.

**Table 4.8 The main customers of the projects**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative Percent
<b>Community</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>98.8</b>	<b>98.8</b>	<b>98.8</b>
<b>Shops</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	

The table above indicates that 82 (98.8%) participants 8 % rely on the community as their main customers. There was only 1 participant (1.2%) who indicated that shops are the customers of the project. It can then be argued that the communities are the real customers of the projects, and therefore projects rely mainly on local people for their business. It is unfortunate that the members do not do market research to find out what the people want. This also implies that for a project to be sustainable, the produce should always be determined by the needs of the rural people.

**Table 4.9 Project members are often provided with training**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>	<b>Cumulative Percent</b>
<b>Agree</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>55.4</b>	<b>56.8</b>	<b>56.8</b>
<b>Neutral</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>77.8</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>21.7</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>97.6</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Missing System</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2.4</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>100</b>		

The table above indicates that the vast majority of participants, i.e. 46 (55.4 %), agree that the project members are being provided with training. There were 17 participants (20.5%) who were neutral about training being provided. Eighteen participants (21.4%) disagree that training is provided to project members. There were 2 respondents who did not respond to the statement and these constitute 1.2% of the sample. It can, therefore, be deduced that training is provided, though some might not be getting it as they expected. Training is important for poverty alleviation projects to be sustainable. Project members in various types of poverty alleviation projects need to be provided with different skills for effective and efficient management of the projects.

**Table 4.10 Training is provided by:**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>	<b>Cumulative Percent</b>
<b>Departmental officials</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>69.9</b>	<b>84.1</b>	<b>84.1</b>
<b>Consultants</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>83.1</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Missing System</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16.9</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>100</b>		

The table above indicates that 58 participants (69.9%) of the total population were trained by departmental officials from the departments of Health and Social Development, and Agriculture. There were 11 participants (13.3%) who indicated that they were trained by consultants about labour matters. Fourteen participants did not respond to the statement and seemingly these were the ones who disagreed in the above table about training being provided to project members. It can thus be deduced that departmental officials play an important role in providing training to poverty alleviation projects. These officials are the ones who see to it that projects are sustainable for the development of rural communities.

**Table 4.11 Type of training**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>	<b>Cumulative Percent</b>
<b>Financial Management</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>18.8</b>	<b>18.8</b>
<b>Business Management</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>50.6</b>	<b>60.9</b>	<b>79.7</b>
<b>Others</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>83.1</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Missing System</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16.9</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>100</b>		

The table above indicates that 13 participants (15.7%) were provided with training in Financial Management, while 42 participants (50.6%) were provided with Business Management training. There were also 14 participants (16.9%) who were trained in other areas. These areas include baking, brick making, vegetable layout and poultry and chicken farming. There were 14 participants (16.9%) who did not respond to the statement. It can therefore be argued that poverty alleviation projects should be seen as a means of business where project members should regard themselves as business people, hence the emphasis on Business Management training. In associating the projects with business will give the project a better status and this could perhaps attract more participants. It is mainly through business training that poverty alleviation projects can be sustainable.

**Table 4.12 Project members are often remunerated**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percentage
<b>Agree</b>	2	2.4	2.4	2.4
<b>Sometimes</b>	82	96.4	96.4	98.8
<b>Disagree</b>	1	1.2	1.2	100
<b>Total</b>	83	100	100	

The table above indicates that 2 participants (2.4%) agree that project members are often remunerated from project profits. There were 82 participants (96.4%) who are sometimes remunerated. Only 1 participant (1.2%) disagreed that project members are remunerated. The conclusion that can be made here is that project members are often remunerated. Remuneration is given to members only if there is enough profit for a month. For poverty alleviation projects to be sustainable there needs to be continuous remuneration to project members so that they can remain committed to the project activity.

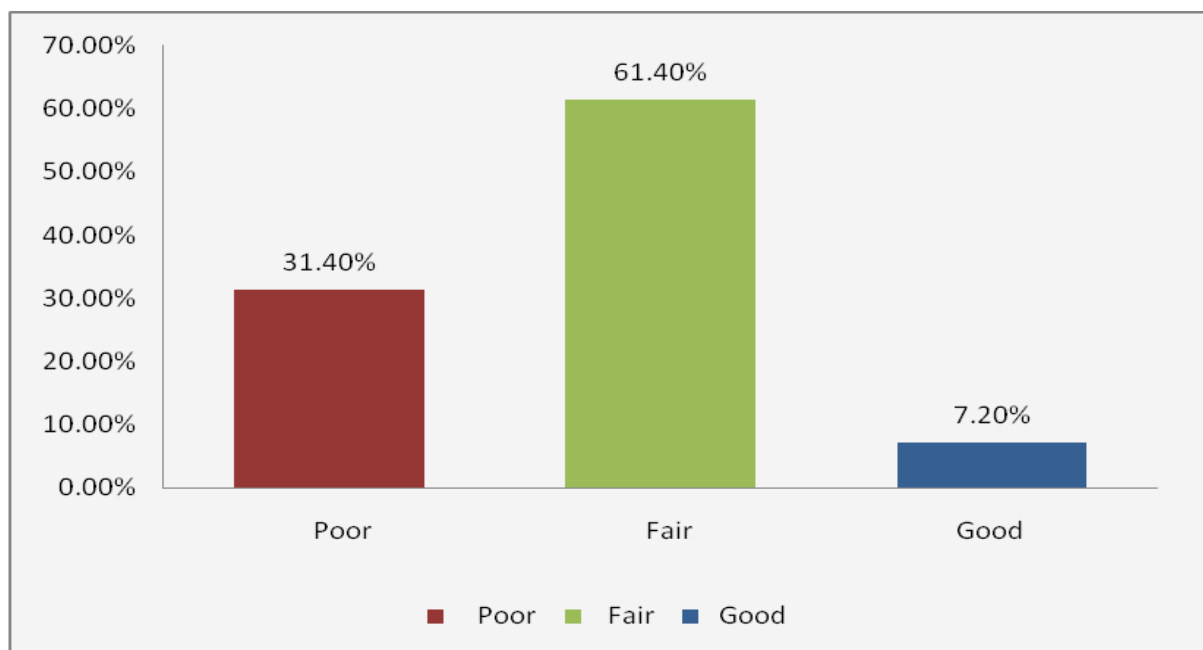
**Table 4.13 Community support rate**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
<b>Poor</b>	2	2.4	2.4	2.4
<b>Fair</b>	16	19.3	19.3	21.7
<b>Good</b>	65	78.3	78.3	100
<b>Total</b>	83	100	100	

The table above indicates that 2 participants, (2.4%) regard the community support as poor. Sixteen participants, (19.3%) regard the community support as fair. There

were 65 participants (78.3%) who regard the community support as good. This implies that most communities support the projects and see them as a very important means of alleviating poverty and developing rural people. For projects to be sustainable there need to be community support, with the community being able to purchase fresh produce for a healthy diet. In supporting the projects, the community is also able to get their basic needs at a reasonable price, hence poverty alleviation projects.

**Figure 4.3 Government support rate**



The figure above indicates that 26 participants (31.3%) regard the government support as poor towards the projects. There were 51 participants (61.4%) who regard government support as fair. Only 6 participants (7.2%) regard the government support as good. The support that is needed for the sustainability of poverty alleviation can be in the form of training or finances, which most members regards as fair. It can, therefore, be deduced that the government is giving fair support to poverty alleviation projects for their sustainability even though it is not enough. There need to be more efforts from the government to support the projects if poverty is to be alleviated in rural communities.

**Figure 4.4 Projects' sustainability**



The figure above indicates that 21 participants (25.3%), regard the projects' sustainability as poor. Most participants, that is 61 (73.5%) regard sustainability rate as fair. There was 1 participant, (1.2%) who regards the projects' sustainability as good. It can, therefore, be concluded that in the study poverty alleviation projects' sustainability is fair. The members of these projects are not very satisfied with the performance of the projects but hope for improvement in sustenance of their projects.

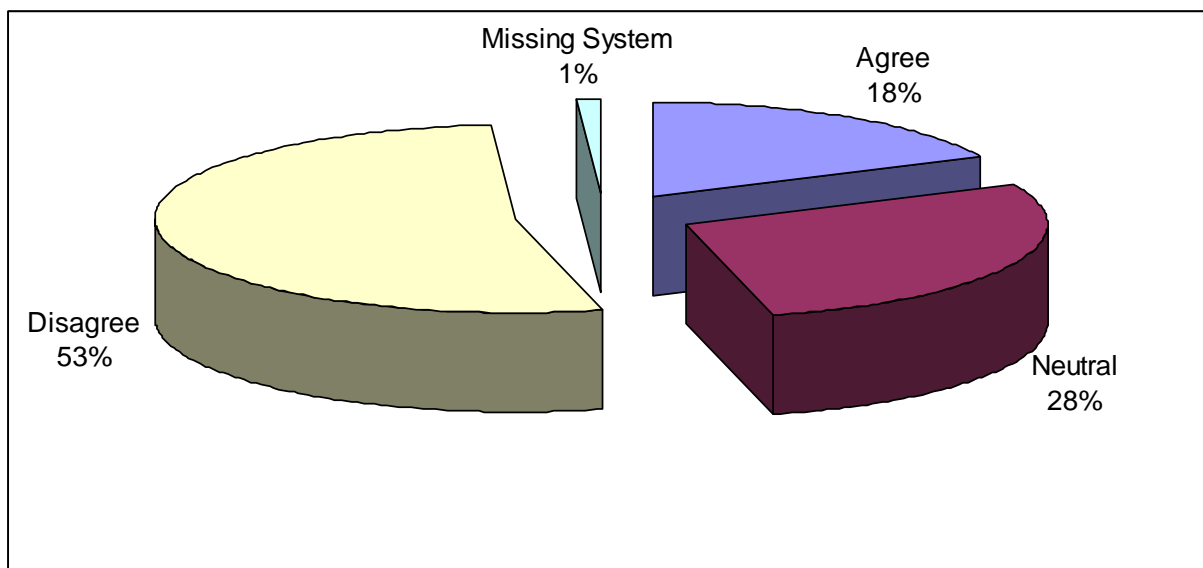
**Table 4.14 The sustainability of projects in the villages**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
<b>Agree</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>14.5</b>
<b>Neutral</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>60.2</b>	<b>60.2</b>	<b>74.7</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>25.3</b>	<b>25.3</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	



The table above indicates that 12 participants (14.55%) agree that the projects around their villages are sustainable. There are 50 participants (60.2%) in the study, who are neutral about how sustainable those projects are in the villages. The reason for this high percentage of neutrality is that the projects are operating, but they fail to remunerate adequately. Some members are not guaranteed remuneration monthly, while others do remunerate but not sufficiently. Those who disagree that the projects are sustainable number 21 (25.3%). The implication here is that poverty alleviation projects around Ga-Chuene are not greatly sustainable. This also implies that the projects are not really succeeding in alleviating poverty.

**Figure 4.5 Members' level of education is a problem in managing the projects**



The figure above indicates that 15 participants, who constitute 18% of the population sample, agree that the level of education is a problem in the management of poverty alleviation projects. There are 23 participants (28%) who are neutral about the level of education of project members as a cause of project management problems. Those who disagree that the level of education is a problem in the management of the projects number 44 (53.0%) of the population sample. There is 1 participant, (1%) who did not respond to the statement. The conclusion can, therefore, be drawn that the level of education has no bearing in the management of poverty alleviation projects in the area of Ga-Chuene. This is because most project members who are at management level have at least Grade a 12 qualification.

**Table 4.15 Most projects encounter financial accountability problems**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
<b>Agree</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>60.2</b>	<b>60.2</b>	<b>60.2</b>
<b>Neutral</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>37.3</b>	<b>37.3</b>	<b>97.6</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	

The table above indicates that 50 of the participants (60.2%) agreed that projects encounter problems of financial accountability. There are 31 participants (37.35%) who were neutral. Only 2 participants (2.4%) disagree that there is a problem of financial accountability on poverty alleviation projects. It can then be deduced that most projects have serious problems of financial accountability by project members. The projects products are sold daily but members cannot account for how the money is spent. Training is therefore required so that project members can learn how to handle and account for their project finances.

**Table 4.16 Most problems are financial support**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
<b>Agree</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>62.7</b>	<b>62.7</b>	<b>62.7</b>
<b>Neutral</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>26.5</b>	<b>26.5</b>	<b>26.5</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	

The table above indicates that 52 participants (62.7%) agree that the projects do have a problem of financial support from both the government and private companies. There are 22 participants (26.5%) who are neutral on whether financial support has a bearing on the success of projects. Nine participants (10.8%) disagree that financial support is a problem. It can, therefore, be deduced that there is a serious problem of financial support from either the government or donor agencies. Since the government and some donors stopped funding the projects members are struggling to make the projects sustainable. It is a known fact that the projects do not make much profit, and therefore it is vital that they receive donations so that they can become sustainable.

**Table 4.17 Members leave due to lack of remuneration**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
<b>Agree</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>90.4</b>	<b>91.5</b>	<b>91.5</b>
<b>Neutral</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>96.3</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>98.8</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Missing system</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1.2</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>100</b>		

The table above indicates that 75 of the participants, who constitute 90.5% of the population sample, leave the projects due to lack of remuneration. There are 4 participants (4.8%) who are neutral about members leaving due to lack of remuneration. Those who disagree, constituting 3.6%, are 3 in number. There was only 1 member who constituted 1.2%, who did not respond to the statement. It can, therefore, be deduced from the largest group of respondents (90.5%) that members

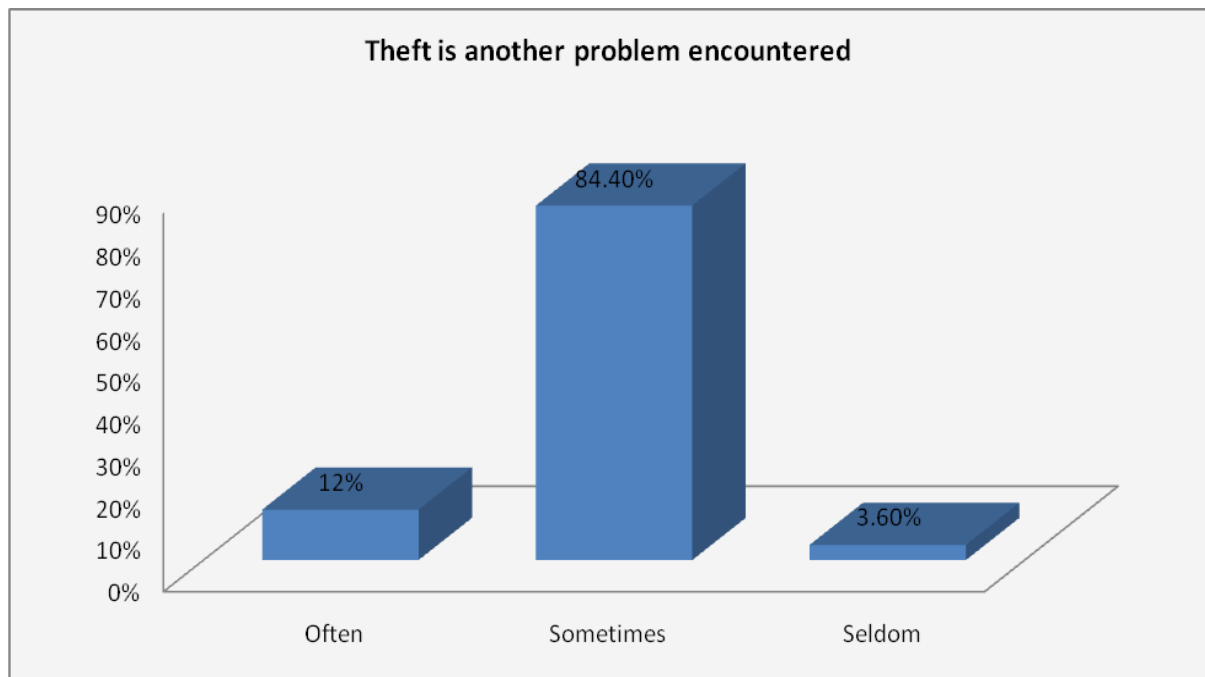
are not satisfactorily remunerated, and that makes them to leave the projects and seek employment elsewhere. A project shall only be regarded as sustainable if it keeps members, and the only way to keep members is only if they are earning financial benefits from the projects.

**Table 4.18 The projects produce are of poor quality**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Valid Percentage</b>	<b>Cumulative Percentage</b>
<b>Valid Agree</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.6</b>
<b>Neutral</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>14.5</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>85.5</b>	<b>85.5</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	

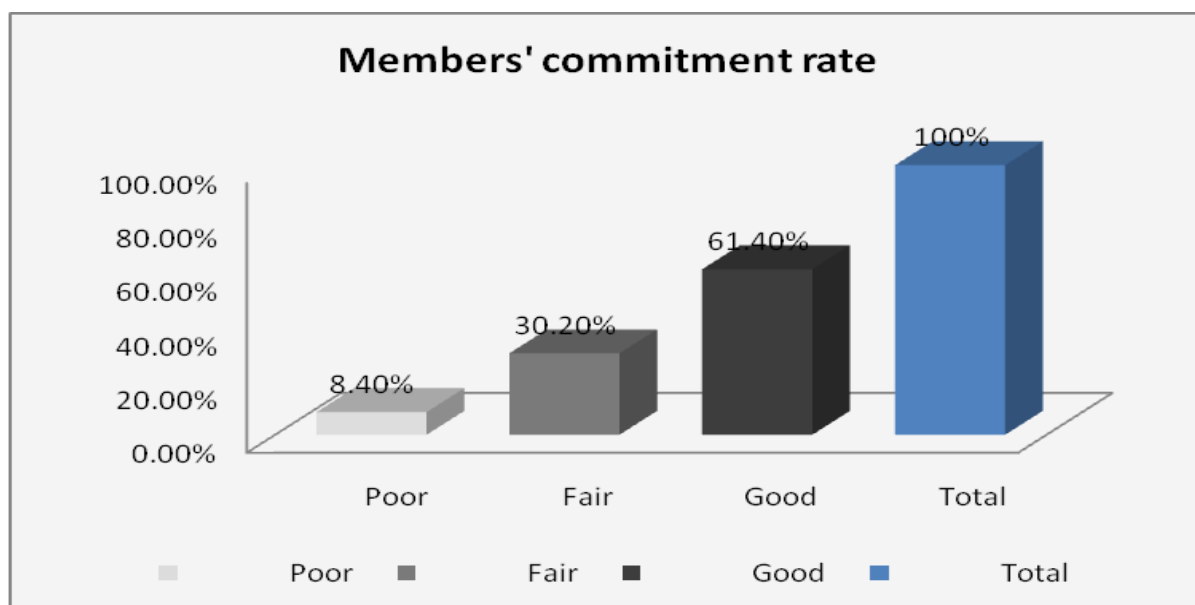
The table above indicates that 3 participants (3.6%) of the population sample of the respondents agree that the produce are of poor quality. There were 9 participants (10.8%), who are neutral about the quality of the produce. The greatest majority, i.e. 71 of the respondents, who constitute 85% of the population sample of the respondents, disagree that the produce from the projects are of poor quality. It can be deduced from most of the respondents that the produce from the projects are of good quality. It can also be argued that most community members wouldn't be supporting the projects if their produce were not of good quality. The production of quality produce from the projects is vital for the sustainability of poverty alleviation projects.

**Figure 4.6 Theft is another problem encountered by project members**



The figure above indicates that 10 participants (12.0%) see theft as a problem in the projects. There were 70 participants (84.3%) who indicated that theft occurs sometimes, while 3 participants (3.6%) indicated that theft seldom occurs in the projects. The project members encounter theft of project equipment like garden tools and project produce like vegetables and bakery produce. It can, therefore, be argued that theft occurs at these projects, but it has not bearing on the sustainability of the project as it happens sometimes. The projects need security, but theft is not rife to such an extent that it threatens the existence or the sustainability of the projects.

**Figure 4.7 Members commitment rate**



The figure above indicates that 7 participants (8.4%) rate the members' commitment as poor. There were 25 participants, who constitute 30.2%, who rate the commitment as fair. Those who rate members' commitment as good number 51, constituting 61.1% of the population sample. It can be deduced from most respondents that members are committed to their poverty alleviation projects. For a fact that some have been involved in the projects for more than 5 years of 7 years in the project shows that very few are not committed. Poverty alleviation projects need committed members to be sustainable.

**Table 4.19 Enough land has been acquired for project purpose**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
<b>Agree</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>63.9</b>	<b>63.9</b>	<b>63.9</b>
<b>Neutral</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>26.5</b>	<b>26.5</b>	<b>90.4</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	

The table above indicates that 53 participants, who constitute 63.9% of the population sample, agree that there is sufficient land that was acquired for the projects purposes. There were 22 participants (26.5%) who were neutral about the issue of available land. Those who disagree that there is sufficient land for project purpose number 8, and they constitute only 9.6% of the population sample. It is deduced from the largest number of respondents that there is sufficient land for project use. There need to be sufficient land as members engage in different development activities, be it agricultural or any development related activities. Rural poverty alleviation projects with enough land have a potential for growth, and that will lead to the sustainability of their projects.

**Table 4.20 The projects do not provide enough job opportunities**

	Frequency	Percentage	Valid Percentage	Cumulative Percentage
<b>Agree</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>28.9</b>	<b>28.9</b>
<b>Neutral</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>27.7</b>	<b>27.7</b>	<b>56.5</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>43.4</b>	<b>43.4</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	

The table above indicates that 24 participants, (28.9%) agree that poverty alleviation projects do not provide enough job opportunities. There were 23 participants, who were neutral about projects providing job opportunities. The reason for this neutrality is that some members leave the projects for other things that they regard as more rewarding than the projects. Those who disagree that they do not provide job opportunities number 36 (43.4%). It can then be deduced from most respondents (43.4%) that poverty alleviation projects provide job opportunities. They argue that every villager was given an opportunity to establish projects, but some were not interested. The fact that many people are not interested in poverty alleviation projects does not suggest that they do not provide local people with jobs.

**Table 4.21 More than one department should be involved in assisting the projects**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percentage
<b>Agree</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>66.3</b>	<b>69.6</b>	<b>69.6</b>
<b>Neutral</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>89.9</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>95.2</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Missing System</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

The table above indicates that 55 participants (66.3%) agree that more than one department should be involved in assisting the projects. Sixteen participants (19.3%) were neutral about the involvement of more than department. There were 8 who disagreed that there should be more than one department involved and they constituted only 9.6% of all the participants. There were 4 who did not respond to the statement, and they constituted 4.8%. The main departments that should be fully involved with these projects are the Departments of Health and Social Development and Agriculture. It can be deduced from the largest number of the respondents (66.3%) that more than one department should give a helping hand in the management of poverty alleviation projects. If every department can contribute its expertise that is needed in the sustenance of the projects, we shall see many projects become sustainable.



**Table 4.22 There should be project specialization**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>	<b>Cumulative Percentage</b>
<b>Agree</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>3.9</b>
<b>Neutral</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>15.6</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>78.3</b>	<b>84.4</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>92.8</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Missing System</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7.2</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>100</b>		

The table above indicates that 3 participants (3.6%) agreed that there should be specialization of projects by each project. Nine participants (10.8%) were neutral, while 65 (78.35%) disagreed that there should be specialization. Sixteen (7.2%) of the participants did not respond to the statement. It can, therefore, be argued that there should not be specialization in the projects. The projects that have a potential to be more sustainable than others are those that have a variety of activities. There are projects that have gardening and poultry farming that perform better than those that specialize, for example only bakeries. It is vital that when projects are established, members should think of different activities that can make their project sustainable.

**Table 4.23 The projects should be managed by the unemployed people**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>	<b>Cumulative Percent</b>
<b>Agree</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>41.0</b>	<b>43.0</b>	<b>43.0</b>
<b>Neutral</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>27.7</b>	<b>29.1</b>	<b>72.2</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>26.5</b>	<b>27.8</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>95.2</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Missing System</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4.8</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>100</b>		

The table above indicates that 34 participants (41.0%) agreed that poverty alleviation projects should be managed by the unemployed people. There were 23 (27.7%) who were neutral, while 22 participants (26.5%) disagreed that only the unemployed should be the ones managing the projects. Four (4.8%) participants did not respond to the statement. It can be deduced that, according to the members, poverty alleviation projects should be managed by the unemployed rural people. These are the people who were earmarked for the projects and they should be the only beneficiaries of poverty alleviation projects. They are always available and their situation will make them more committed to the work as they want to get out of poverty cycle. People who are employed will always have a problem of managing the projects as they would not be entirely relying on the profit from the projects. For a project to be sustainable there need to be people who are committed and who will always be available on project activities.

**Table 4.24 Funding should be ceased when the projects are able to generate income**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
<b>Agree</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>69.9</b>	<b>73.4</b>	<b>73.4</b>
<b>Neutral</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>94.9</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>95.2</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Missing System</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4.8</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>100</b>		

The table above indicated that 58 participants (69.9%) agree that funding should be ceased once the projects are able to generate enough income. There were 17 participants (20.5%) who were neutral about funding being ceased, while 4 disagreed that funding should be ceased when the projects are able to generate income. There were those 4 who did not respond, and these constituted 4.8%. It can, therefore, be argued that since the projects are managed by people who are poor and unskilled, they need to be funded until their projects are able generate income than can be used to remunerate the members. When funding stops, most poverty alleviation projects collapse as members do not have the capacity to raise funds, and that leads to the failure of poverty alleviation programmes that are in place.

**Table 4.25 Gender representativity should be considered when establishing projects**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>	<b>Cumulative Percent</b>
<b>Agree</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>66.3</b>	<b>69.6</b>	<b>69.6</b>
<b>Neutral</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>89.9</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>95.2</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Missing System</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4.8</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>100</b>		

The table above indicates that 55 members (66.3%) agreed that gender should be considered when a project is established. There were 16 participants (19.3%) who were neutral. Eighteen (6.6) disagreed that gender should be considered. There were 4 (4.8%) who did not respond. It can be argued that gender representativity is necessary if poverty alleviation projects are to be sustainable. When establishing a project, there needs to be men and women, who are equally involved in the management of the projects. Most projects beneficiaries are the women and that might, not undermining the women's intelligence, be the reason why some of them are not sustainable. Poverty affects mainly women, but men are also poor to be neglected when poverty alleviation projects are established. The different roles played by both men and women are vital for the sustainability of poverty alleviation projects.

**Table 4.26 Markets should be identified before project establishment**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>	<b>Cumulative Percentage</b>
<b>Agree</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>24.1</b>	<b>24.1</b>
<b>Neutral</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>30.1</b>	<b>31.6</b>	<b>55.7</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>42.2</b>	<b>44.3</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>95.2</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Missing System</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4.8</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>100</b>		

The table above indicates that 19 participants, constituting 22.9% of the population sample, agree that there should be market identification before a project is established. There were 25 participants (30.1%) who were neutral. Thirty-five disagreed that there need to be market identification. There were 4 who did not respond to the statement, and they constituted 4.0%. It can, therefore, be deduced that there is no need for market identification. When projects are established, members do not only rely on local people but on markets outside their jurisdiction. The produce needs to appeal to people for the projects to be sustainable.

**Table 4.27 Projects need access to bank loans when funding stops**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percentage
<b>Agree</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>57.8</b>	<b>62.3</b>	<b>63.3</b>
<b>Neutral</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>72.7</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>25.3</b>	<b>27.3</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>92.8</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Missing system</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7.2</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>100</b>		

The table above indicates that there were 48 participants (57.8%) who agreed that project members should have access to bank loans when funding is stopped. There were 8 participants (9.6%), who were neutral, while 21 participants (25.3%) disagreed that projects should have access to bank loans. The conclusion can be reached that banks should give the projects loans so that the members are able to operate their projects as funding is a serious problem for project members. It is through loans that members will be able to make poverty alleviation projects sustainable.

#### **4.4 CONCLUSION**

The information received in this chapter indicates that poverty alleviation projects are more appealing to women than men. Men usually prefer being employees rather than project owners as the establishment of poverty alleviation projects does not guarantee payment. Men are in most cases breadwinners, and relying on the projects might not bring sufficient income to meet their families' basic needs. Poverty alleviation projects are a good alternative for men who cannot find employment. The ages of project members are mainly for middle-aged married women, who are mainly trying to augment their family income through the projects. The information

also indicates that these projects are not appealing to the youth. There are many problems that hinder the sustainability of projects like financial management, insufficient training and lack of remuneration. There need to be efficient handling of projects funds if members are to manage their projects effectively and efficiently. The factors that can contribute to the sustainability of these projects need to be taken into consideration. These factors include project specialization, gender representativity, market and funding processes. The chapter that follows will reach the conclusion and make recommendations of how poverty alleviation projects can be more sustainable than they find themselves at this moment.

## **CHAPTER 5: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **5.1 INTRODUCTION**

Millions of people in Southern Africa, according to Coetzee (1992:2) live in absolute poverty, making up an immensely high figure of unemployment and underdevelopment. This poverty is mainly felt by the rural people who can better their lives by engaging in poverty alleviation projects. South African rural communities need development that aims at raising the level of living of the poor, and also providing them with the opportunities to develop their potential. There are numerous recommendations that are suggested in this study, which can play an important role in the development of rural communities that engage in rural poverty alleviation projects.

### **5.2 SUMMARY**

The research was divided into five chapters that are summarized as follows:

**Chapter 1:** In chapter 1 the research discusses the research problem, which involves the background of the study, the problem statement and operational definitions. The background of the study outlined poverty as a socio-economic problem of a global concern and the establishment of poverty alleviation projects as a means of alleviating poverty. The research also discusses the problem statement, which addresses issue of the sustainability of rural poverty alleviation projects.

**Chapter 2:** In this chapter, the research is all about what other authors and researchers say about the sustainability of poverty alleviation projects. The research also discusses how community development can play a role in alleviating poverty in rural communities. Community development, which aims at improving the quality of life, has three basic elements. These are participation by the communities themselves, empowerment of the communities and sustainability, which is a process in the human wellbeing that needs to be prolonged. The chapter also discusses poverty alleviation projects and programmes internationally, in South Africa and also in Limpopo. With regard to the international overview, the research looked at poor countries like Argentina, Mexico and China. China is the country that is achieving success in poverty alleviation projects due to technological advances it is adopting. There are Sub-Saharan countries that are unable to have sustainable poverty



alleviation projects due to serious socio-economic constraints. South Africa, through government instructive like RDP, has also undertaken to alleviate poverty. Limpopo has also adopted five development objectives that correspond with those of MDG's.

**Chapter 3:** The chapter discussed the research methodology, which included the selection and the description of the area of study, the population sample and data collection procedures. The location selected for investigation included two villages at Ga-Chuene called Thokgoaneng and Maratapelo. These were selected as they have projects that can give the researcher accurate information about the sustainability of poverty alleviation projects. Data was collected through the use of structured questionnaires.

**Chapter 4:** The chapter discusses the research findings, data analysis and interpretation. The descriptive statistical techniques, in the form of charts and tables, were used to analyze data. In analyzing and interpreting data, the researcher came up with the conclusions from the responses of the projects members about their biographical information, sustainability of the projects, the problems encountered and the factors that can contribute to the sustainability of the projects.

**Chapter 5:** The chapter discusses the summary, conclusion and the recommendations of the research. In concluding the research, the researcher discusses the purpose of research, and also the role community development can play in improving the quality of life of the poor communities. There are also recommendations that can assist the project members to manage their projects successfully.

### **5.3 CONCLUSION**

The purpose of this research was to investigate the reasons for the lack of sustainability of most rural poverty alleviation projects and to recommend possible solutions to this problem. Community development, which aims at the improvement of the quality of life, can play a meaningful role in the development of the rural communities. The people's self-effort to improve their living conditions is a key to sustainable poverty alleviation projects. The youth of this country can play a meaningful role in alleviating poverty by meaningfully engaging in poverty alleviation

projects. The government departments, together with other funders of these projects should play a meaningful role by continuously monitoring the projects to ensure their sustainability. The role that can be played by the government is that of providing funding, monitoring and also training of the project members. The government can also play a role in assisting the projects in acquiring donations as the projects find it difficult to acquire such donations. It is very much important that everybody, be it the poor, the government and the donors, be involved in these if poverty is to be alleviated and ultimately eradicated. The recommendations are presented next.

## **5.4 RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the researcher's observation and guided by the research findings in this research, the researcher recommends the following:

### **5.4.1 Youth involvement**

The youth form part of the unemployed people of this country. The involvement of the youth in poverty alleviation is essential because this will reduce poverty and unemployment, which is rife in the country. In most poverty alleviation projects, the ones that are involved are mainly the older people, thus indicating that these projects are not appealing to the youth. There are many projects in which the youth could be involved, such as construction, Information Technology, catering and others. These projects are sustainable and this indicates that their involvement in poverty alleviation projects will open up business opportunities.

Sustainable rural poverty alleviation projects need skilled people. There are also many skill development agencies that are prepared to train youth in different skills like farming, baking, bricklaying and others. This training will benefit the unemployed youth who are unemployed so that they are able to open business opportunities for themselves. The training will also assist the projects in that the youth will bring fresh minds and new ideas.

### **5.4.2 Training**

In every work environment, proper training is a key to the success of every institution. Poverty alleviation project members are sometimes given insufficient training or are not given training at all. Most members have been engaged in these

projects but they have never attended a single training course in whatever they are involved with. Most members receive training in Financial Management, which is essential but it is not enough for a sustainable poverty alleviation project. Training in gardening, baking, bricklaying, poultry and chicken farming and others are vital as this will assist project members in producing the best products. Most training should be provided by the specialists in different projects. This will motivate the project members as the support shall be coming from knowledgeable and experienced people.

#### **5.4.3 Co-ordination among the projects**

Most rural poverty alleviation projects are engaged in similar activities within the same environment. There are instances where different projects are engaged in agricultural activities and also those that are engaged in baking produce similar goods. This is because there is no co-ordination among the projects. Co-ordination is very important as the projects members shall be able to assist one another in various methods of producing quality produce that are appealing to their customers.

There is also a problem of stiff competition among the projects. Most customers are the communities where these projects are located and the competition makes most projects lose profit. It vital that projects members are brought together so that they can be advised of the ways of avoiding competing with one another for the same customers. Co-ordination is important for the sustainability of poverty alleviation projects because members are able to motivate one another.

#### **5.4.4 Specialization of the projects**

The most common poverty alleviation activities are vegetable gardening, poultry and chicken farming, brick making and baking. Most projects are engaged in one of these activities, while others are engaged in more than one activity. The engagement in more than one activity makes the members focus on the activity they think can generate more income, while neglecting the others. For poverty alleviation projects to be sustainable there needs to be specialization so that members can channel all their energy on their activity they are engaged in.

It should be borne in mind that there are certain objectives for these projects. If the objective of a project is the production of quality vegetables, let the customers find quality vegetables and not quality bread. Specialization will also avoid confusing the customers who bring business to the projects. Through specialization, project members will avoid unnecessary competition among the projects within the same jurisdiction.

#### **5.4.5 Market Cooperatives**

The local communities are the market for rural poverty alleviation projects but these projects need to expand and be competitive in their businesses. There is a serious problem when the projects try to break into national and international markets. The various problems encountered are the quantities they produce, the quality of the produce and the marketing strategies they adopt. It is vital for poverty alleviation projects form these cooperatives so that they are able to market their produce to in large quantities to national markets. This will assist them in getting better and guaranteed profits than those they get from the local communities. These cooperatives are also vital in that the members are bale to exchange business ideas for the sustainability of their projects.

#### **5.4.6 Government needs to give support to the projects**

The government, be it provincial or national, should play an important role in supporting poverty alleviation projects. The government has played an important role in assisting the projects financially, but more support is needed. Additional support can be in the form of training because it was found that most project members are not given much attention in that area. It is vital that when a project is established, officials with expertise in that project should be available to assist in training and monitoring the progress the project is making. Some projects end up stopping their operation when they encounter some problems, especially when they do not get the project benefits. This is mainly due to the unavailability of government officials whose presence might motivate the project members to continue under those circumstances. It is mainly through the government's support and effective monitoring that poverty can be alleviated through sustainable poverty alleviation projects.

## **5.5 CONCLUSION**

Despite efforts that have been made by the governments and donor agencies in fighting poverty, the struggle has yet to be won. Actions taken at international and national levels will often not be enough to alleviate poverty. Participation and empowerment of local people is needed. When people participate voluntarily and democratically, they are able to contribute to the development effort, and also share in the benefits derived from that participation. This will give rural people the opportunity to shape their lives and expand their economic opportunities. Sustainable poverty alleviation projects can also play a meaningful role in reducing poor people's vulnerability to unemployment that is rife in poor countries. This study is confined to Thokgoaneng and Maratapelo villages at Ga-Chuene area. It is, however, possible that the challenges faced by these communities, and the recommendations suggested might be relevant to other areas in the province and that they can play an important role to ensure poverty alleviation and a better life for the poor people.

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# 1 .A STRUCTURED INTERVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE ON SUSTAINABILITY OF RURAL ALLEVIATION PROJECTS: A CASE OF THOKGOANENG AND MARATAPELO VILLAGES IN LIMPOPO.

## TO BE ANSWERED BY PROJECTS MEMBERS

The questions contained in the following pages are intended to research on “Sustainability of Rural Poverty Alleviation Projects.”

Put the cross on the item the item that represents your choice. Be fair and square.

Please respond to all questions. The answers will be treated with the strictest confidentiality they deserve.

### 1. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Gender

1

Male

2

Female

Marital Status

1

Single

2

Married

3

Widowed

4

Divorced

Age

1

Under 25

2

25 to 35

3

Over 35

Number of Dependants

1

No Child

2

1 to 3

3

More Than 3

Educational Qualifications

1

Below Grade 12

2

Grade 12

3

Diploma

4

Degree

Years in Project

1

Less than 3

2

3 to 5

3

More Than 5

Village

1

Thokgwaneng

2

Maratapelo

## 2. SUSTAINABILITY OF POVERTY PROJECTS ALLEVIATION

2.1. The project in your village was initiated by

1	2	3
<b>Project Members</b>	<b>Government</b>	<b>Community</b>

2.2. The project in your community is managed by

1	2	3
<b>Manager</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>All Project Members</b>

2.3. The main customers of your project are the

1	2	3
<b>The Community</b>	<b>The Hawkers</b>	<b>The Shops</b>

2.4 The project members are often provided with training

1	2	3
<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Disagree</b>

2.5. Training in the project is provided by

1	2	3
<b>Departmental Officials</b>	<b>Consultants</b>	<b>Others</b>

2.6. Your project received training in

1	2	3
<b>Financial Management</b>	<b>Business Management</b>	<b>Others</b>

2.7. The project members are often remunerated

1	2	3
<b>Agree</b>	<b>Sometimes</b>	<b>Disagree</b>

2.8. The community support is rated as

1	2	3
<b>Poor</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Good</b>

2.9. The government support is rated as

1	2	3
<b>Poor</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Good</b>

2.10. Your project's sustainability is rated as

1		
<b>Poor</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Good</b>

### 3. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN THE MANAGEMENT OF POVERTYALLEVIATION PROJECTS

3.1. The projects in your villages are sustainable

1	2	3
Agree	Neutral	Disagree

3.2. The members' level of education is a problem in managing the projects

1	2	3
Agree	Neutral	Disagree

3.3. Most projects encounter financial accountability

1	2	3
Agree	Neutral	Disagree

3.4. Most problems encountered by the projects are financial support

1	2	3
Agree	Neutral	Disagree

3.5. Project members sometimes leave the project due to lack of remuneration

1	2	3
Agree	Neutral	Disagree

3.6 The project produce are sometimes of poor quality

1	2	3
Agree	Neutral	Disagree

3.7 Theft is another problem encountered by the projects

1	2	3
Often	Sometimes	Seldom

3.8 The project members' commitment is rated as

1	2	3
Poor	Fair	Good

3.9 Enough land has been acquired for project purpose

1	2	3
Agree	Neutral	Disagree

3.10. The projects do not provide enough job opportunities

1	2	3
Agree	Fair	Disagree

## 4. FACTORS THAT CAN PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROJECTS

4.1. More than one department should be involved in assisting the projects.

1	2	3
Agree	Neutral	Disagree

4.2. There should be project specialization, e .g. vegetable garden or bakery, in a project.

1	2	3
Agree	Neutral	Disagree

4.3. The projects need to be managed by the unemployed people

1	2	3
Agree	Neutral	Disagree

4.4. Funding of a project should cease when the project is able to generate income

1	2	3
Agree	Neutral	Disagree

4.5. Gender representativity should be considered when establishing a project

1	2	3
Agree	Neutral	Disagree

4.6. Markets should be identified before a project is established

1	2	3
Agree	Neutral	Disagree

4.7. The projects need to have access to bank loans when the government stops funding

1	2	3
Agree	Neutral	Disagree

THANK YOU

# Ga-Chuene

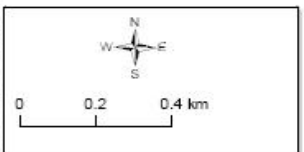


## Ga-Chuene

Province: Limpopo  
District or Metropolitan Municipality: Capricorn  
Local Municipality: Polokwane Local Municipality  
Main place name (2001 Census): Ditiou Machidi  
Sub place name (2001 Census): Ga-Chuene

### Legend

- Points Of Interest
- 🏥 Health Facilities
- 🎓 Educational Institutions
- 🛣️ Roads
- 🛣️ Main Road
- 🌊 Rivers
- 📐 Place name boundary



## DECLARATION

I, **MATSIMELA JOAS MASHIANE**, declare that '**SUSTAINABILITY OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROJECTS: A CASE STUDY OF THOKGOANENG AND MARATAPELO VILLAGES IN LIMPOPO PROVINCE**' is my original work in design and execution, and that all sources consulted have been duly acknowledged.

  
Signature

08.12.2008  
Date



