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Institute of Social Development

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An outcome assessment of a developmental project: A case study of the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project in Mount Darwin district, Mashonaland Central Province, Zimbabwe.

A mini-thesis submitted to the Institute for Social Development, Faculty of Economics Management Sciences (EMS) at the University of the Western Cape, in partial fulfilment of the requirements for an MA Degree in Development Studies.

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DEDICATION

On 11th April 2009, you waved goodbye to us and this world. Tears have dried but fond memories of you are still fresh, R.I.P mom.

This research is a special dedication to my late mother who was proud of me and urged me to keep focussed even in adverse times. It is with great compassion that I am writing this when you are no more, but I just want to let you know I did not disappoint you mom.



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ABSTRACT

The establishment of the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project was an endeavour initiated by the Government of Zimbabwe, to empower local people. It was done to improve the livelihoods of the people. However, despite the launch of the project, socio-economic challenges remain pressing issues. The inability to make decent livelihoods continues to affect rural farmers, resulting in the scheme being unable to be fully-functional. The problems thus undermine the capability of the project to address poverty and inequality, which was core to the project initiation.

This research focuses on an outcome assessment of the irrigation project as it relates to the livelihoods of people in the Dotito rural communal area. Both quantitative and qualitative methodologies were used in the study. Twenty-four farmers, out of a possible ninety farmers, were selected to complete questionnaires. Random sampling was used to identify and select participants. Data collection was done using interviews, questionnaires and observations. Analyses were done using descriptive statistics. Tables and graphs were presented based on the information gathered from the farmers.

The research findings show that the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme partly managed to empower the local people. Some of the indicators used include: employment creation, income generation, and changes to the socio-economic livelihoods of beneficiary farmers. However, lack of support and the prevailing economic situation are among the many challenges that make it difficult for the farmers to achieve their full potential in terms of improving their livelihoods.

Another challenge relates to water availability. Irrigation pumps at the irrigation scheme use electricity to supply water needed by the farmers, thus there is inadequate water supply. This is because the electricity supply has long been cut-off due to the arrears accumulated by the farmers. It has rendered the irrigation partially functional, resulting in low productivity. The low crop yield makes it difficult to fully address the food security situation for the people. While others blame the situation on the land reform, based on evidence from development practitioners and farmers interviewed, the unsuccessfulness of the irrigation could be attributed to lack of project tracking (monitoring and evaluation) by government. It is in this context that intervention by the government, non-governmental organizations and the Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority, is recommended to ensure the viability and sustainability of the irrigation scheme and facilitate its positive impact on rural livelihoods.

Keywords

Development project, cash, food, asset, programme, monitoring and evaluation, socio-economic, irrigation, WFP, Mount Darwin, Mashonaland Central, Zimbabwe, livelihoods, outcomes assessment.



DECLARATION

I declare that *An outcome assessment of a developmental project: A case study of the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project in Mount Darwin district, Mashonaland Central Province, Zimbabwe* is my own work, that it has not been submitted before for any degree or examination in any other university, and that all the sources I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged as complete references.

Edmore Mlotshwa

Signed: Date: 23/02/2017



ACRONYMS

CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
DA	District Administrator
C/FFA	Cash/Food for Asset
FHH	Female Headed Household
GoZ	Government of Zimbabwe
HLPE	High Level Panel of Experts
ILO	International Labour Organisation
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MHH	Male Headed Household
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PAC	Productive Asset Creation programme <i>of the</i>
PCM	Project Cycle Management
WFP	World Food Program
UNWFP	United Nations World Food Program



CHAPTER ONE

This chapter introduces the Outcome Assessment of Developmental Projects with Special Reference to the Dotito-Muchenje Irrigation Project in Mount Darwin District, Mashonaland Central Province, Zimbabwe. The relevance of the study, the research problem, its aims and objectives and the research questions are all discussed in this introductory chapter.

1. Background to and relevance of the study

“The relationship between socio-economic inequality and democratic politics has been one of the central questions in the social sciences,” Blofield (2011:1). Poverty and inequality is widespread in Africa. “Poverty has remained high mainly because inequality in Africa is among the highest in the world,” Mugerwa, 2003:46). The key issue in this research was the state of the livelihoods of the people in the rural areas in Zimbabwe and the manifestation of poverty and inequality in the countryside, which has remained high. “On the basic level, inequality reduces the standard of living and quality of life of the poor and prevents them from achieving their full human potential,” Blofield, (2011:2). Empowering people with assets like land and provision of irrigation schemes are some of crucial initiatives towards improving people’s lives.

In Southern Africa, inequality is pronounced and can be evidenced in the asset endowments by people and households (Makholwa, 2015)¹. There is a general consensus that the high profile land occupations in Zimbabwe are a manifestation of a much larger phenomenon across the South. Commenting on this Moyo (2001: 311) stated that, “the phenomenon has common grievances arising from unresolved agrarian questions, which are common in the development dialogue as a problem of the ‘rural poor’ and as subject to welfarist ‘rural development’ programmes.” From personal experience, as a resident in Zimbabwe, I can argue that in recent years, generally high poverty levels in most rural communities can be traced to the land reform programme. Contrary to my personal view, others argue that current problems can be attributed to the usurpation of land and the consequent displacement of black people during the colonial era, which created serious imbalances in terms of land ownership between black and white people in Zimbabwe (Hove and Gwiza, 2012: 282). In trying to address this land disparity, the government of Zimbabwe implemented the Fast Track Land Reform Program (FTLRP) in the 2000s. In February 2000, farm invaders operating with the

¹ <http://www.timeslive.co.za/local/2015/09/30/SA-is-one-of-the-most-consistently-unequal-economies-in-the-world-UCT-professor>

tacit approval of the Zimbabwe's ruling Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) party began to violently seize control of the country's commercial farms (Laurie, 2016:1).

The FTLRP was aimed at reversing the racially-skewed agrarian structure and discriminatory land tenures inherited from colonial rule (Moyo & Chambati, 2013:1). The idea was deemed crucial as it was claimed that over 6000 large-scale white farmers and a few foreign and nationally owned agro-industrial estates controlled most of the prime land, water resources and bio reserves, while relegating the majority of the population to marginal lands and cheap-labour services (Moyo & Chambati, 2013:1). Despite the said efforts to redress the land question, in this study, I argue that the Zimbabwean land reform programme was not a one size fits all solution towards improving the livelihoods of many rural communities. According to Laurie (2016:1), during the preceding eight years before the start of the Zimbabwe land reform programme, "the farm invaders targeted both farmers and farm workers in a campaign violence that largely transferred the control of the country's commercial farms to ZANU-PF supporters and beneficiaries." It is in this respect that the programme faced a lot of criticism both locally and internationally. Although to some extent, the programme was successful its critics is usually centred on its implementation process. "In the face of its weak performance in delivering benefits to Zimbabwean people, ZANU-PF constantly sought to sharpen racial divisions in order to polarise political debate and win support for the land seizures" (Laurie and Chan, 2016:293). This led many to claim that the programme was meant for political expediency.

The land issue has been central to ZANU-PF's political agenda since its founding in the 1970s (Laurie, 2016:11). It is therefore this ZANU-PF obsession of land that has led to land to be articulated as defining the 'being of individuals' and the 'sovereignty of the country'. Life is believed to have come from, flourished and ultimately ended in 'the land', hence the idiom "children of the soil" (Chavunduka & Bromley, 2013:271). It is on the farms where land could be utilised as a source of empowering people. Irrigation schemes provide a typical example of an initiative that enables smallholder rural farmers to boost their livelihoods.

The Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme offers a platform whereby small-holder farmers in Dotito could utilise the irrigation in changing their livelihoods. The project is an intervention by the Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ) which is aimed at making a positive impact on the livelihoods of the farmers in one of the country's rural area. Government intervention in

agriculture leads to important outcome. The agriculture specific programmes intended to increase the welfare of farmers can become capitalised into asset values (OECD, 2008:11). The project was initiated at a time when the country was facing a decrease in production in commercial irrigation. There was a decreasing investments and declining performance of many large-scale irrigation schemes. The interest has been developing in recent years for seeking ways to improve productivity and the livelihood of small-scale farmers (Moyo, 2005:1). For instance, an increased interest in the livelihoods of small-scale farmers saw one of the world's most ambitious poverty reduction initiative developed for small-holder irrigation. The initiative was aimed at two million poor households a year as an effort to take a major step on a path out of poverty (Moyo, 2005:1). In a study done in Lower Gweru communal lands, Moyo (2005) discovered that the promotion of irrigation in the country plays an important role in reducing poverty in rural communities. Mark (2012) notes that irrigation projects are crucial in ensuring food security and improving the standard of living for the majority of the population living in urban and rural areas. These authors concur that irrigation schemes are crucial in terms of development. Irrigation projects are seen as a social protection, which in actual sense, manages or reduces vulnerability. Furthermore, irrigations are aimed at stabilising income and making access to food across good and bad years, or between the harvest and the drought season (Devereux, 2015:1).

“Government intervenes in the agriculture sector through policies that both support and shape agriculture production” (OECD, 2008:11). In 2007, the Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ) passed its indigenisation and economic empowerment act. It is during this time that the government subsequently launched the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project which officially got commissioned in 2012. The project is part of the indigenisation and economic empowerment act and is in line with government's land reform program. The irrigation project was initiated as an endeavour to empower local people. Reports indicate that about 63 percent of rural households in Zimbabwe are living in poverty with 16 per cent classified as living in absolute poverty² (ZimVAC, 2014:7). Absolute poverty is a situation of being unable to meet the minimum levels of income, food, clothing, healthcare, shelter, and other essentials (Todaro and Smith, 2012:2). Persistent poverty in rural household spells the need for development so that affected people can better their livelihoods. In order to find solutions to the problem of poverty, development projects had to be initiated. Moyo (2005:2) wrote of

². Absolute poverty - Proportion of population living on less than \$1 a day as per United Nations

some similar irrigation projects such as the low cost drip kits distribution during the “Home nutrition garden” project. The project was hailed as a way of improving livelihoods, incomes, food security and nutritional health for poor families in drought prone areas of Zimbabwe (Moyo, 2005). It is clear in the preceding statement that most rural people are grappling with poverty. This hardship emanates from socio-economic inequalities and lack of projects to foster development. The lack of livelihoods approaches such as development projects is affecting most rural people in Zimbabwe. According to Scoones (1998), sustainable livelihoods are achieved through access to a range of livelihood resources which are combined in the pursuit of different livelihood strategies. In this study, water and land are some of the resources identified as means to improve the irrigation farmers’ livelihoods. A report by the Zimbabwe Vulnerable Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) in 2012 revealed that water shortage is a development priority for rural communities in the country. This priority is important as far as agrarian reforms in former settlers’ areas in Africa were expected to re-orient state intervention towards broader-based rural development and to redress entrenched racially-unequal political and economic power relations (Moyo & Chambati, 2013:7).

Community development projects quite often spark further activity that can lead to the setting and reaching of further goals which bring about further development (Swanepoel & De Beer, 2012:45). In pursuit of development, a dam was built in the area along the Chakoma road which is used at the irrigation scheme. It came to light that “water supply and sanitation projects are of fundamental importance in terms of ensuring environmental sustainability, improving health and eradicating extreme poverty for the overwhelming rural majority living in the developing world including Zimbabwe” (Kwangware et al., 2014: 34). The preceding statement helps to justify the rationale behind this study and the subsequent launch of the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project. Through irrigation, farmers would likely be able to produce enough to feed the family and ensure there is enough to sell (Anon, 2012)³. This study is based on the assumption that at times, development projects can be solutions to poverty alleviation to communities such as this case study area.

There is a general agreement that there is a close relationship between poverty and hunger as poverty is a key issue underlying household food security, caring capacity, and health environments (Hill et al, 2007: 27). Poverty has exacerbated hunger hence the subsequent need to fight it for better livelihoods of the affected people. This is why the need to eradicate

³ <http://www.herald.co.zw/invest-in-irrigation-says-mujuru/>

extreme poverty and fight hunger is the first on the list of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). HLPE (2012:21) defines food security in line with the adopted 1996 World Food Summit definition which implicitly identifies four dimensions, namely; availability, access, stability and utilisation to define food security. In acknowledging the close relation between poverty and hunger, this study adopts the FAO (2003:28) definition which redefined the 1996 World Food Summit definition and states that, “Food security (is) a situation that exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.” The preceding definition closely gives an idea to the reason why the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme was initiated. However, the project was aimed as a one size fit all, given the fact that it was aimed beyond food security as it was meant to improve the livelihoods and as a means of empowering the local people.

Among different organisations working in Zimbabwe is World Food Programme (WFP), a humanitarian agency and its subsequent launch of the Cash/Food for Asset programme under its Food for Asset Programme (FFA). I have been inspired to use the Cash/Food for Asset programme as a concept to carry out an outcome assessment on a developmental project which was initiated by the Government of Zimbabwe. This study uses land as an asset meant to transform the livelihoods of the people in the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme. The idea of land as an asset has its philosophical origin in Locke’s labour theory of property (asset) acquisition where Locke argues that one’s labour is one’s personal property and when one mixes this labour with capital (land) to make it productive, he imagines that he is now the owner of the land (Chavhunduka & Bromley, 2005: 271). Relating the C/FFA programme and the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project, WFP (2013) assumed that the 'Food Assistance for Assets' programmes would help meet the immediate food needs of vulnerable people by having them build or boost assets that will benefit the whole community. The launch of the irrigation project in the district was an important move given the vulnerability of the district, which is rated fourth among hunger-stricken districts in the province (Anon, 2012)

In recent years in Zimbabwe, it has become a trademark that project implementation is crucial for community development purposes. Community development makes use of assets at its disposal (Swanepoel & De Beer, 2012:44). The availability of plots to farmers at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme gives the study a point of departure and relevance. I take the irrigation scheme as an asset which the beneficiary farmers are supposed to utilise. It is within this view that one can argue that irrigation schemes can be used to aid development,

especially if one looks at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme and other projects alike as WFP's asset creation and rehabilitation programme. According to the WFP (2012) in its Zimbabwe fact sheet, through its PAC programme, the organisation supported activities that seek to create, protect/avoid loss, or rehabilitate three main categories of productive assets, namely Community Managed Assets (built, maintained and managed by the local community), Household Managed Assets (owned, maintained and managed by the household) and Co-Managed Assets (sharing maintenance and management responsibilities between Government and Communities). Food aid projects are planned based on adequate information concerning the needs of the recipients, the contributions of the countries involved and other donors, and the analysis of lessons learned from previous initiatives (CIDA, 2003). Hence, the launch of the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme by the Government of Zimbabwe as a developmental project aimed at empowering local people in Dotito.

The study focuses on the assessment of the outcomes of the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme as an asset, hence a developmental project. Therefore, a view of land as a productive asset implies security which then induces investment and improvements in agricultural productivity (Chavhunduka & Bromley, 2013). This means that apart from engaging the farmers, consultation with experienced people working in different positions in organisations in Zimbabwe was done. Input gathered was useful in the assessment and will be fundamental especially on how to ensure successfulness in development projects in general and those similar to the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme. This further helps to ascertain the impacts of developmental projects in terms of community development. As in most cases, the need to uplift livelihoods of the rural people has often seen the implementation of development projects. This study critically assesses the outcomes impacts of adoption of the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme on the livelihoods of the beneficiary farmers.

1.1 Problem Statement

The land reform programme has been promoted in Zimbabwe since the year 2000s as a means of empowering indigenous people in order to improve their livelihoods standards. The Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project is one classical example of a project that was initiated under the banner of the land reform programme. However, regardless of the project initiation it seems that challenges to people's livelihoods in the case study persisted.

Interestingly, the hype centred on the project raised a lot of expectations. In more realistic terms, the irrigation project was expected to impact positively on the livelihoods of the

farmers. These factors and others were examined in this study. Various studies have been carried out on the impact of such investments for a better understanding of the smallholder irrigation sub sector (FAO, 2000). In light of this statement, I could ascertain that the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project forms part of the global debate issue on how developmental projects are important in improving the standard of living for people in the rural areas. The need to improve people's livelihoods and food security was emphasised during the commission of this project (Anon, 2012). The preceding statement helps to highlight the fact that the initiation of the irrigation project was problematic. A kind of a project that is so crucial in the development sector. For instance, today millions of people are considered hungry with most of them living in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa where approximately 50% are in farming households, 22% are the rural landless, 20% live in urban areas and 8% are resource dependent (pastoralists, fisherfolk, etc.) (HLPE, 2012:21). The phenomenon has been widespread across Africa and in the Southern African region, the problem is not different. Zimbabwe has a "serious" global hunger index of 17.3, at which 72 per cent of the population live below the national poverty line, with a third of the country's children chronically malnourished, with no significant improvement since 1999 (WFP Executive Board, 2013:3). It is such poor situations that have made development a challenge which has seen a number of different development projects, agencies and other Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) activities in the country. However, it has become difficult to gauge the actual impact of development and aid projects. This has made it difficult to ascertain the actual outcomes of funded aid programs not to be reported separately (Harvey et al, 2010). Due to the difficulty to ascertain impacts of food aid from the source, thus this study focuses on a project on the ground on how agricultural activities may lead to food security.

In the case of development projects and community development initiatives, development agencies usually come to the fore with projects aimed at empowering the local communities. Development projects are usually initiated by means of project concept papers/discussion papers or proposals prepared by executing agencies (CIDA, 2003). However, there is a growing call for citizen participation anchored on civil society engagement (Muchadenyika, 2015:2) citing Cornhall & Coelho (2006). Civil society at the local level with context specific needs, better defined issues, and strategies that include the chronically poor, and marginalised leads to the creation of better citizens who are able to contribute to social, political and economic development (Thompson, 2002). In Zimbabwe, most development projects are aimed at reducing poverty and aiding in the provision of food in draught hit areas. Therefore,

it was imperative to do assessments as to provide knowledge base that helps to ascertain the impacts of such projects in terms of community development.

This study was undertaken in the wake of increased development projects by the government, development agencies and other organisations in different parts of Zimbabwe. For instance, in early 2014, a South African based non-government organisation, Gift of Givers Foundation donated three truckloads of groceries, clothing and blankets for thousands of families affected by floods (ZBC, 2014). Therefore, rather than carrying out a study on the status quo of individual organisations or an aspect of government which in most cases is presumably well documented as far as development projects are concerned, this study primarily focuses on the irrigation scheme as a development project in Mount Darwin district in Mashonaland Central Province, Zimbabwe. In due understanding of development purposes, impacts brought by the implementation of the project provides the baseline of this study as it seek to emphasises the importance of outcome assessment in development projects. In the process of assessment, the roles of monitoring and evaluation as a continuous assessment and change enabling tool for improvements is considered. Khan et al (2003) defines monitoring as an on-going activity to track down progress of work in respect of planned activities and evaluation as a periodic activity, which gets its input partly from regular monitoring and partly from a planned review at a certain point in time or at regular interval.

Data for this study were generated through the combined use of quantitative and qualitative research methodologies. A random sample of twenty-four farmers participated and data collection was done using interviews, questionnaires and observations. This process is described in detail in Chapter Three.

1.2. The aim / purpose of the study

The overall aim of this research was to conceptually explore the importance of outcome assessment in developmental projects. The research findings help to express the importance of accounting for projects geared towards facilitating livelihood changes.

1.3 Research Assumptions

Regardless of the type of a project/program and the goals to be achieved, the logistics required for a project to deliver are largely the same. Projects share the common goal of delivering the right results to the right place at the right time, in the right condition and for the right cost (Hale & Franciscovich, 1999). In implementing development projects, a change resulting from the project has to be determined. Hence, in this study the ability of the Dotito-

Muchenje irrigation project to transform the livelihoods of the farmers in the community in which it was initiated was tested.

1.4. Research Objectives

The four specific objectives of the study were to:

- Outline the general overview of development projects implementation as is evidenced in the case study area.
- Empirically investigate the level of importance, practicability and successfulness of the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project from the perspective of the farmers.
- Provide recommendations to organizations and researchers working in development projects and other programmes alike.
- Determine productivity at the irrigation project, in order to assess the inclusiveness and sustainability of the project in terms of livelihood improvement.

1.5. Research Questions

This study aims to answer three questions in relation to development projects. It focussed on the following questions:

- What is the impact of the project on household poverty reduction for the farmers in the case study area?
- How, and in what ways, are the farmers utilising this project to improve their livelihoods?
- How the research findings can be used by developmental agencies to improve projects in related contexts?
- How can the project be assessed to fully address the challenges faced in development projects?

1.6. The structure of the thesis

Chapter One introduced the topic and discussed its significance. The research aims and objectives were outlined. Chapter Two reviews the literature and outlines the theoretical perspective that underpins this study. Chapter Three discusses the research methods used for this study. It also describes the research setting and provides a contextual background for the study. In Chapter Four an analysis of research results to assess the Dotito-Muchenje Irrigation Project was done. And finally, Chapter Five concluded the thesis and offered recommendations as based on the outcome of the study. In summary, the research established

that in order for development projects to achieve their full potential, certain organisational and implementation aspects have to be evaluated and prioritised, holistically.

1.7. Chapter Conclusion

The chapter gave an overview of the study. It introduced the Outcome Assessment of Developmental Projects with Special Reference to the Dotito-Muchenje Irrigation Project in Mount Darwin District, Mashonaland Central Province, Zimbabwe. The relevance of the study, the research problem, its aims and objectives and the research questions were all discussed in this introductory chapter. A brief focus on poverty and inequality was done to highlight on the socio-economic relationship in developing countries communities. This discussion degenerated into the Zimbabwe land reform and subsequently, the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project. The introductory section is now complete and next is the literature review with the primary focus being this research undertaking.



CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

Literature Review to Assess the Outcome of the Developmental Project in Mount Darwin District, Mashonaland Central Province, Zimbabwe

2. Introduction

The chapter provides detailed literature review and outlines the theoretical framework adopted in this research. The decision to use the sustainable livelihoods approach framework, and its relevance to the study is discussed. Definitions for key concepts, sustainable livelihoods and poverty, are provided. With regard to the literature, particular emphasis was given to the literature focussing on development and the role of development projects. Specific attention was given, to monitoring and evaluation as a means of carrying out an outcome assessment of the irrigation project that is integral to this study. This discussion culminates in an in-depth focus on the objective of this study, viz., impact evaluation, which is scrutinised. This end, aspects related to monitoring and evaluations are dealt with in detail. Literature covering food insecurity and related issues is also surveyed. Relevant ideas obtained from the literature reviewed are used in the evaluation of the socio-economic impact of the programme in the Case Study area. This chapter commences with a definition of sustainable development to dovetail with the ensuing literature review.

2.1 Sustainable livelihood approach

The concept of 'sustainable livelihoods approach' has become central to the debate about rural development, poverty reduction and environmental management (Scoones, 1998:3). The sustainable livelihoods framework helps to organize factors that constrain or enhance livelihoods opportunities and shows how they relate to one another (Serrat, 2010:2). Given that this study investigates the roles of monitoring and evaluation by assessing the livelihoods of the farmers in the Mount Darwin district's Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme, it is relevant and applicable to use the sustainable livelihoods approach for the purposes of the Case Study. Sustainable Livelihood approach has been incorporated into many other development processes and has brought a valuable, people-centred perspective to policy discussion (Carney, 2003). When taking into account the various issues and concerns relating to the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme programme, it becomes apparent that the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA) is an appropriate theoretical framework informing the study. It is in this sense that it becomes vital to clarify the concept 'sustainable livelihood approach' from the start. In doing so, one has to bear in mind that there is no single school of

thought or agreed definition of the concept. In an attempt to define the concept, Scoones (1998:5) does not divulge much into what exactly the sustainable livelihood approach is, but he highlights that the 'sustainable livelihoods' concept relates to a wide set of issues, which encompass much of the broader debate about the relationships between poverty and the environment. It is in light of this relationship that I have related the socio-economic state of the farmers at the case study irrigation to poverty and the land to the environment.

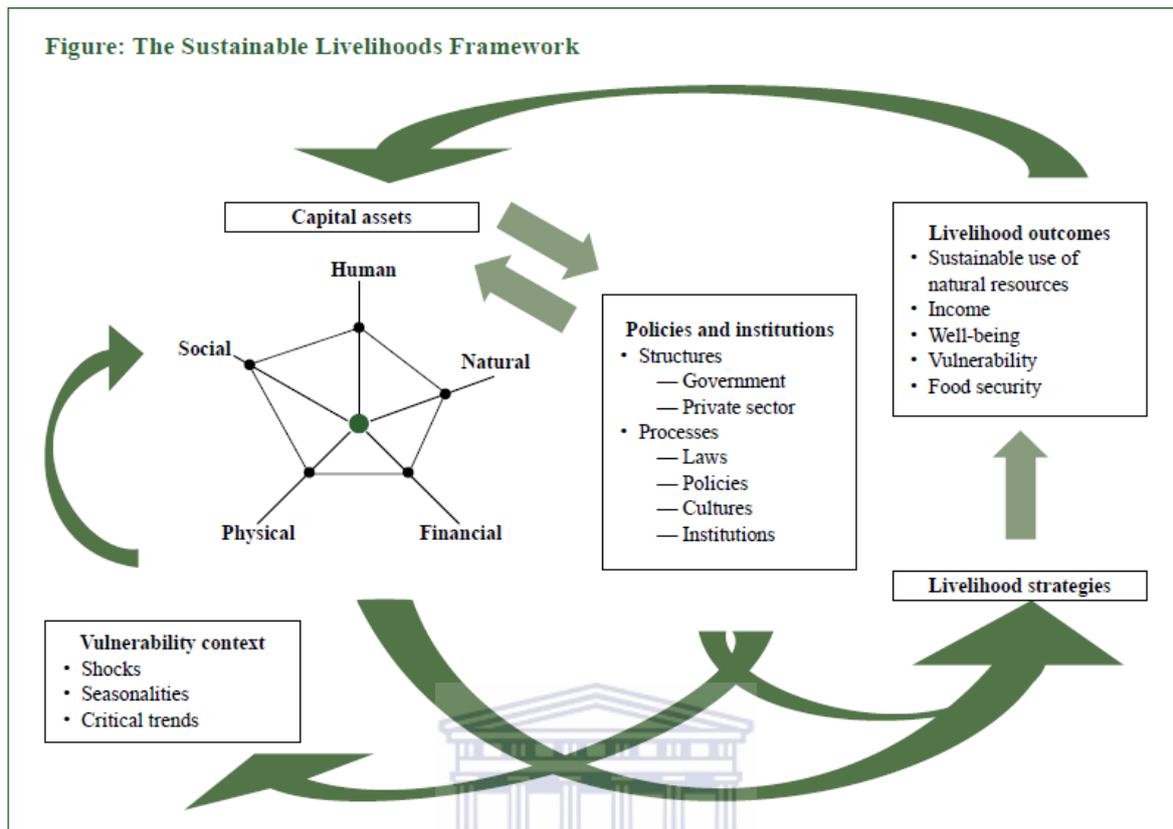
Serrat (2010) defines the sustainable livelihoods approach as a way of thinking about the objectives, scope, and priorities for development activities. While Scoones (1998) wrote of sustainable livelihoods as a state of being in a context, Serrat (2010) tried to limit it to a general meaning development. However, even though Scoones (1998) and Serrat (2010) seem to contrast in their explanations of the sustainable livelihoods concept as has been highlighted in the previous statement, I have noted that at least both of these two authors concur that the notion is central to development issues. Therefore, in this case, one is compelled to accept that although this study is about an assessment of a specific development project, the sustainable livelihoods approach is a suitable theoretical framework that can be used to help understand the role and nature of assessments in development projects. The framework provides logical rationale for undertaking this research, given that the programme under review is aimed at uplifting the socio-economic conditions and improving the livelihoods of the people residing in the study area. This implies reducing poverty and addressing food insecurity.

The sustainable livelihoods approach is a complex approach and in its complexity, comprises a number of ways of assessing developmental issues and programmes. Serrat (2010) writes that the approach helps to formulate development activities that are: people-centred, responsive and participatory, multi-level, conducted in partnership with the public and private sectors, dynamic and sustainable. More importantly, this approach has provided new insights into the livelihoods of the poor and has emphasised the importance of working alongside poor people and supporting them in reducing poverty (Carney, 2003:9). Despite differences within this perspective, the views expressed by various authors all demonstrate the relevance of using the sustainable livelihoods framework for the purposes of this study. Statistically, the high number of cases of people and households living in poverty in developing countries renders them particularly vulnerable to the impending poverty crises. This study also undertook to determine the livelihoods of the farmers at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme. The decision to carry out this investigation into the livelihoods of the farmers in the

Case Study area is based on the FAO (2008) definition of poverty which was adopted from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The definition essentially highlights poverty as encompassing different dimensions of deprivation that relate to human capabilities. These human capabilities include access to food consumption and food security, health, education, human rights, freedom to be heard, security, dignity and having a decent work. It is these capabilities that ensure that this definition of poverty is in line with the topic of this study and appropriate within the research context. It is therefore, from this perspective that a working definition of poverty used for this study, has been developed and adopted.

Poverty, as used here, usually refers to the living conditions of individuals. Therefore, in order to obtain an accurate and in-depth understanding of the livelihoods of the farmers at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme, the sustainable livelihoods approach has been used to help assess how the farmers are utilising the land for the improvement of their socio-economic status. The concept has been also used to determine the weaknesses that have been identified, that are impeding the farmers' ability to achieve optimum utilisation of the scheme in order to enhance their livelihoods. A central notion around sustainable livelihoods is that different households have different levels of access to livelihood assets. The sustainable livelihood approach aims to expand this by identifying the livelihood assets which the poor must make trade-offs and choices about (Serrat, 2010:2). Information on the livelihoods assets is provided in the diagram below which was adopted by Serrat (2010) and many others from the Department of International Development of the United Kingdom.

Figure 2.1: The Sustainable Livelihoods Framework



Source: Serrat (2010:2) adopted from DFID

Figure 2.1 sums up the logic behind the sustainable livelihoods approach. In the context of the irrigation scheme, capital assets here refer to the land and the ability of the farmers to use it to achieve the desired livelihood outcomes. The farmers have natural capital and physical capital in the form of land. Human capital comprises their knowledge about farming and agricultural practices. What is lacking or in question here is the financial and social capital necessary for economic improvement. The absence of such forms of capital is likely to impact negatively on the ⁴ livelihood outcomes of the farmers. This study investigates such cases in order to determine the likelihood of the farmers achieving ⁵ full livelihood outcomes. The framework also shows that achieving such full livelihood outcomes won't come easily as there are policies and institutions that may hinder them. The establishment of the irrigation scheme has been part or an outcome of the Government of Zimbabwe's broader land reform policy. In addition to this, as has been mentioned earlier, the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme is a government initiated project. Despite the irrigation being a government initiated project, there is room for the private sector to play a role. The farmers mentioned how they

⁴ Sustainable use of natural resources, income, well-being, vulnerability, food security

⁵ I referred it to as the ability of the farmers to live sustainably above the livelihood outcomes

were assisted by NGOs and there were widespread calls made by the farmers to have private sector organisations and individuals to form partnerships with them. This can be seen as a desperate attempt by the farmers to try to achieve full livelihood outcomes. All in all, it is hoped that the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme will sustain the farmers within a context of vulnerability, which includes times of shock-disasters, seasonality droughts and in critical challenging times.

Therefore, using this approach in assessing the outcomes of development projects is not purely for academic purposes only, as it has an impact on the status quo of the vulnerable groups. In an attempt to explain the relevance of this approach, Serrat (2010) highlighted that the sustainable livelihoods approach facilitates the identification of practical priorities for actions that are based on the views and interests of those concerned. He also argued that the approach is not a panacea but suggested that, it makes the connection between people and the overall enabling environment that influences the outcomes of livelihood strategies.

2.2. Development projects

Development involves either a positive or negative change in a societal context. In order to gain an insight into this study and what development projects in general entail in a humanitarian or any other sector, there is need to obtain an understanding of what is meant by development. In an attempt to define development, Thomas (1996) defines the concept in line with Thomas and Allen (1992) whom he credits with having a standard discussion of the various aspects or dimensions pertaining to development as 'progress.' This might in principle, be measured in order to recognize whether development has taken place. In the context of this study, development is associated with development projects implemented by government or development agencies. However, one should note that projects have an influence that spans much wider than only the project and those participating in it (Swanepoel & De Beer, 2012:46). Therefore, there are such development related activities which are being referred to as projects. This study adopts a common and broader definition from the United Nations perspective. It assesses development in terms of the development of a country and people in its Human Development Index (HDI), over the World Bank one which is primarily economically based (Thomas, 1996:96). In this study, development is assessed in terms of the socio-economic bases. Despite the fact that the United Nations definition is given priority, this Case Study incorporates both the United Nations and the World Bank definitions and perspectives on development. In brief, development is viewed as a process of

societal change that generates some perceived benefits for people or as a state of perceived quality of life attained through such a process (Dale, 2004:21).

However, despite definitional differences as illustrated by the United Nations and the World Bank examples cited above, I am obliged to understand development as an objective aimed at improving the lives of the people in the community. The only challenge, from a development point of view, is how to ensure that decisions that affect the lives of the poor, but are taken in arenas remote from those lives, remain responsive to local needs (Newell & Wheeler, 2006:45). This challenge makes the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme in Mount Darwin worth studying because in it is essentially a project aimed at community development, basically for the benefit of local people. This study is not about just any project aimed at development, but a particular development project aimed specifically at improving the food security and other aspects of the socio-economic livelihoods of the people in the community concerned. The views of Thomas (1996) regarding development are in line with this study and provide ideological support for and help understanding the concept. He cites Seers (1979) who differentiated between purely economic definitions of development, which emphasise increased prosperity, and broader approaches that define development in terms of the satisfaction of human needs. In light of this statement, the latter part of the definition is relevant to this study as compared to the former one.

In considering a definition of development, Thomas (1996) has mentioned possible disagreement as far as development is concerned. He posed debatable questions such as whether ideals such as equity, political participation, and so on should form part of a definition of development. He also questioned the importance of including environmental considerations, analysis in terms of gender relations, and a more general recognition of culture in any discussion of development.

Many communities face development challenges, but overall, the findings made in this study clearly demonstrate that development comes in various forms and can be propelled by different sectors concerned, whether private or public. In the case of development programmes, aid projects are either implemented by recipient governments under a bilateral agreement with the donor country, or through an “implementing partner” of the donor—frequently a non-governmental organisation (NGO) or professional contractor (Crawford & Bryce, 2003:363). In light of this statement, one can say that most prominent drivers in development include government, NGOs and humanitarian organisations. In the case of

Zimbabwe, most aid projects are initiated, funded and administered by NGOs and/or humanitarian organisations. However, this study focuses on the irrigation scheme as a development project which I had related to a typical human livelihoods development project. Pronk *et al* (2004) described international development as assistance (aid) that has long occupied a prominent place in debates on development. However, perceptions of its role and significance have changed dramatically over the years and the conditions that most development aid comes with, are starting to be questioned. Nevertheless, the important role of aid in development can be evidenced by increased activities in developing countries. However, one cannot assume that aid is the supreme solution contributing towards development.

This study comes in the wake of the recognition that many communities in Zimbabwe can be defined as food insecure (ZimVAC, 2014). According to AFP (2016) as of February 2016, initial indications were that 1.5 million people were food insecure with all districts affected. But, according to a statement made by ⁶ Savior Kasukuwere, the food insecure population has since risen to 2.44 million people. From this, it is apparent that many of these communities currently face developmental challenges. Significantly reduced harvests for several successive years, combined with shrinking economic output have severely constrained people's coping mechanisms (FAO/WFP, 2008:7). This is especially with reference to the agricultural harvests preceding the year 2008 and the hyperinflation during the same year. Just as in the case of the Cash/Food for Asset programme, challenges like drought and unavailability of food in some parts of the country, are also prevalent in the Case Study area, which falls under Mount Darwin district. Hence, the study area falls within the vulnerability context of food insecurity. In 2008, FAO and WFP expected food security to deteriorate significantly during the year due to the drastic reduction in food and agricultural production following erratic rainfall and gross lack of farming inputs (FAO/WFP, 2008:21). As stipulated in the sustainable livelihoods framework, the vulnerability context therefore, needs the work of government, NGOs and Humanitarian organisations for a possible future shock reduction. It is through development projects that such vulnerable situations can be abated. However, within some of the current running projects, it remains to be ascertained how

⁶ Savior Kasukuwere is a ZANU PF politician who have held a number of position in the party and as of the time of writing this information is a minister of local government in Zimbabwe

possible shocks can be avoided and thus the roles of monitoring and evaluation has to be rigorously researched on in order to help find solutions.

In the case of the Cash/Food for Asset, WFP and partnering organisations sourced for possible solutions by working on a number of development projects. This particular programme was done as a means to try to avoid possible uncertainty future draught shocks. It is in the wake of these number of development projects like the Cash/Food for Asset programme that I used as a development project example to assess the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme. In this study, development was analysed based on the activities at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme, and the resulting outcomes derived from the project. In Zimbabwe, just like in many other developing nations, even though it is a mandate of government to drive development, most development work is carried out by NGOs. This indicates that development has become challenging. The challenges in development have become complex that neither individual citizen nor governments of such communities have managed to overcome them on their own. Bradshaw (2000:133) shares this view and argues that, community development has become complex in modern societies with a growing list of problems and “in response to these and other needs, community development projects have become progressively complex as well.” Therefore, as a means of finding a solution to these complexities, development projects have become convenient. In light of the above statement, it can be noted that development projects have changed comparatively over the years. The Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme is an example of a developmental project that has become increasingly complex. This research deliberated the role and need of outcome assessments on the impacts of such projects. In this Case Study, the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation was identified as an example of such a community development project.

Although the challenging aspects of the development debate may go on, a closer review of development projects in communities has to be given. Hence, the case study on the irrigation project in Mont Darwin, which is currently a government initiated scheme independent of other organisation, has been considered. It has been established that, there are concerns over the potential of NGOs’ activities to become disembodied once groups become less dependent on a traditional support base and work instead, for the global donor on campaign agendas set and negotiated with other partners (Newell & Wheeler, 2006:44). This gives more tangibility to the research on the challenges faced by farmers at the scheme as well as challenges faced by these communities as long as resources and efforts remain big issues which need to be invested to tackle these challenges. In line with this study, Bradshaw (2003: 134) questions

“how does the rapidly increasing complexity of the global community, the expanding reach of organisational networks and funding programs and the growing of interconnection to community problems affect the complexity and effectiveness of community development organisations, programs and projects?” It is in this sense that any development project to be implemented or already implemented has been caught up in a dilemma.

2.3. The role of development projects

Development projects are necessary tools for community development as the need for development has been spiralling in developing nations. One may argue that the emergence of development projects like the Cash/Food for Asset programme and the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project can be attributed to as solutions to some of the noted challenges. In retrospect, this does not guarantee that just any adoption and implementation of these projects is an ultimate answer for the communities concerned. This study investigates the outcome of the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme and its impact on the livelihoods of people in Dotito. A further inquiry was to determine the role and viability of regular monitoring and evaluation for a successful project that would ensure a positive impact for the intended group. Funding agencies now require collaborative, comprehensive or integrated projects even when it would be easier to deal with simpler proposals (Bradshaw, 2000:134). The case study has been adopted as it illustrates the complexity of these comprehensive development projects.

Development projects can be used to improve the livelihoods of the people. For example, in reference to her study on the farmers at Dotito-Muchenje irrigation, Mujuru (2014:128) states that, “Farmers at Dotito Irrigation Scheme were trained to be successful entrepreneurs and the government encouraged them to be business minded whenever running their farming activities.” This means that as much as the project was meant to empower and improve the livelihoods of the famers at the irrigation scheme, the farmers were earmarked to be dependent on their farms to improve their socio-economic statuses. Therefore, this study regards outcomes based ideas as a means that enables an assessment of the farmers at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project and the resultant livelihoods. In doing so, the concept of monitoring and evaluation has been explored to help in the assessment of the project.

Moreover, in order to determine the role of development projects in this case study, a thorough review of the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme was done. During the review, socio-economic impacts were used as the yardstick for determining the impact of the programme in the Mount Darwin district area where the projected is situated. This enables a

measurement of the project's effectiveness as far as development is concerned. Effective community development efforts stand out for their ability to mediate the complexity of the society in which they work, and they are very effective and self-directed in obtaining resources and doing projects that are difficult for others to do (Bradshaw, 2000:134).

In the Zimbabwean context, as evidenced in this case study, one is obliged to acknowledge that as far as development is concerned, the activities of both the government and the private sector are primarily major drivers for development. Civil society, just as the private sector, plays an increasing role in service delivery. Civil society organisations are increasingly being used by development agencies as aid deliverers because they are thought to provide more accountable, effective and equitable services in many areas than public or private agencies (Newell & Wheeler, 2006:44). Given the high volumes of food aid and the number of development projects implemented in the country, this has assumedly also increased the need to conduct monitoring and evaluation, which in turn has also necessitated the need to investigate the roles of such activities. Also, keeping track of progress remains a concern in development projects in less developed nations. Because of all this, most of the responsible authorities are facing challenges as they cannot successfully carry out development by themselves. As a result, large amounts of aid are channelled through NGOs (Newell & Wheeler, 2006:44). Some of these funds and assistance are proving crucial to encourage development in these less developed countries, especially towards community development.

2.4. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Instead of being a general study, this research focuses on the Key Performance Indicators of the irrigation scheme. The KPIs are used as yardstick to measure the impact of a development programme. In this case study, the KPIs steps used by the United Nations and other development agencies were followed. These KPIs are usually abbreviated as SMART in development context in which the acronym SMART standing for Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Result-oriented and Time-based to be specific. According to a paper on the best practices and lessons learned in project management done by ITU-BDT and other international organisations (n.d), it was established that, "KPIs are designed during the initiation phase of the project management cycle and utilized in monitoring and evaluation." In this project, even though there are no accessible and clearly marked KPIs on the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme, the research makes use of the same targets as articulated in the C/Food for Asset programme by WFP. Therefore, the relevance of the KPIs in this research is to clearly mark the areas where the irrigation scheme impacted the farmers' livelihoods.

2.5. Evaluation

An evaluation is an assessment, which is as systematic and objective as possible, of an on-going or completed project, programme or policy, its design, implementation and results (OECD, 1991:5). In other literature, Davidson (2005:1) cited (Scriven, 1991) as defining professional evaluation as the systematic determination of the quality or value of something. Similarly, in this case, the study evaluates the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme by assessing its socio-economic impact on the livelihoods of the people in the Dotito community.

2.5.1. Impact evaluation

In the case of a project or programme, evaluation is an important process. Therefore, in development projects, evaluation is possibly the most important activity that has allowed humans to evolve, develop, improve things, and survive in an ever-changing environment (Davidson, 2005:1). This explanation of evaluation suggests evaluation as something that gives value to the prior situation, resulting in some sort of changes. Baker (2000:1) defines a comprehensive evaluation as, “an evaluation that includes monitoring, process evaluation, cost-benefit evaluation and impact evaluation.” With this comprehensive evaluation meaning in mind, this study is mainly interested in the impact evaluation of the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project in the case study area. In a study done to determine the role of monitoring and evaluation in a district in Kenya, Kimweli (2013:10) establishes that, “[f]or many years to date, Kibwezi district continues to benefit from donor funded food security projects and huge amounts of money have been spent on these projects by donors to solve the perennial food shortages experienced by the community, but these projects have not been able to solve the food deficit problem in the district.” So outcomes assessment in terms of impact evaluation is intended to determine more broadly, whether the programme attains the desired effects on individuals, households, and institutions and whether those effects can be attributed to the programme intervention (Baker, 2000:1). Baker (2000) later added that impact evaluations can also explore unintended consequences, whether positive or negative, on beneficiaries.

Earlier in this chapter, I have suggested that changes towards community development can also be attributed to development projects. Therefore, with this in mind, this research has been developed to carry a similar evaluative function in Mount Darwin district based on an irrigation scheme at Dotito. Among aspects that can be evaluated are projects, programmes and organisation (Davison, 2005:1). Of particular interest, Baker (2000) elaborates that what

is important is the extent to which project benefits reach the poor and the impact that these benefits have on their welfare. So, in the Mount Darwin district, the objective of this study is to determine how the programme has reached the people living within the region and how it has affected their welfare. As such, socio-economic determinants are crucial indicators in this research.

In a quest to determine the outcome effects of the irrigation project, emphasis has to be placed on evaluation. Evaluations are generally conducted for one or two main reasons such as to find areas for improvement and/or to generate an assessment of overall quality or value usually meant for reporting or decision-making purposes (Davison, 2005:2). The resultant findings are achieved basing on the Cash/Food for Asset programme concept. This concept is linked to the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project. The concept is adopted for this case study because of the challenges faced by the people at Dotito where the irrigation scheme is situated. The study carried out an evaluative assessment on the case study because of the unknown situation at hand of the farmers at the irrigation scheme. The study is also an assessment on what it would be or what it ought to be for community development and beneficiary farmers, whether the results are detrimental or positive. In the context of this case study, in order to determine possibilities of any development as a result of the irrigation scheme, observations were also made in the study. In order to achieve positive factual effects in terms of development, Baker (2000) suggests that one needs to net out the effects of interventions from other factors, a task he acknowledged to be somewhat complex.

In order to accomplish a true evaluation result based on the case study, data was collected from the farmers. This, however, was achieved differently as Baker (2000) suggests the use of comparison or control groups (those who had not benefitted from a project). However, applicable to this study was a detailed data collected from the farmers at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme. Information from the farmers was collected using questionnaires which were distributed to the farmers to fill in relevant information. In this case, the data collected was used to evaluate the socio-economic livelihoods of the farmers. This was the vital part of the study because thereafter, it helps in making recommendations that would help other researchers, organisations or supporting government initiatives aimed towards the irrigation and or other development projects.

2.5.2. Types of evaluation

There are different types of evaluations which are even further categorised into different aspects as far as impact evaluation is concerned. For example, summative evaluation, process evaluation among other types of evaluation. According to Dale (2004:34), summative evaluations are undertaken after respective development schemes have been completed as to judge the worth of programmes or projects. In his argument, Dale further argued summative evaluation findings may be used for learning in the planning and implementation of other similar development endeavours. Prennushi, Rubio & Subbarao (2001:117) commented on the different types of evaluation by stating that, “There are other types of evaluations such as process evaluation and theory-based evaluations that are also important for improving management performance and should be conducted depending on the evaluation question at hand.” So, this study was undertaken as a summative evaluation for the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation programme. Characteristically, summative evaluations have been undertaken by persons who are considered to be independent of the responsible programme or project organisations and the donor agencies (Dale, 2004:35). In the case of this study, I was independent from the parent organisation spearheading the project. Furthermore, I was not a beneficiary of the irrigation project and therefore, in terms of the research findings, a fair and unbiased account can be expected.

Income fluctuations may lead to consumption instability and this can be highly undesirable, especially when a household is very poor to an extent that any consumption shortfall may imply starvation. Economic decline in Zimbabwe continues as 2008 becomes the tenth year in a row of negative growth in the country’s real gross domestic product. The economy has shrunk by about 44 per cent between 1998 and 2007 (FAO/WFP, 2008:7). It is situations like these where most poor people in the country experience hardships. In order to counter avoid similar future experiences, solutions are needed. Since credit and insurance markets often do not exist or function only imperfectly, rural households have developed alternative mechanisms for dealing with risk (Kinsey, Burger & Gunning, 1998:89). One example is through development projects and in this case study, the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project has been identified as a perfect example of such developments.

In most of the hitherto and contemporary communities in Zimbabwe, not sparing the Mount Darwin district, there is lack of development initiatives, posing a number of challenges that affect the full productive functioning of the areas. Kinsey, Burger & Gunning (1998: 89) states that, “Rural households in developing countries typically face enormous risks. Their

incomes are highly uncertain as a result of the effect of weather variability, crop diseases and pest attacks on agricultural output and the volatility of prices for their crops.”

Most of development projects were/are in most circumstances implemented in less developed areas. In the case of the developing world, these areas are characterised by rural areas and in this study, the case study area is in the Mount Darwin district. The initiation of the irrigation project in the drought hit areas can be seen as a means of consumption smoothing (i.e. households and individuals can be able to get enough food to consume throughout the year) which was defined by Tiongson *et al* (2003:3) as a, “component of food aid that helps stabilise consumption.” The government of Zimbabwe implemented the irrigation to empower the farmers in the area so that they can have a stable path for consumption. Consumption smoothing may be very costly in circumstances characterized by difficulty in borrowing and by the fact that rural households often have access only to very limited portfolios of assets (Kinsey, Burger & Gunning, 1998: 89).

The socio-economic challenges faced by households quite often point to the poverty faced by the people within an area. One may therefore, suggest that the moment a poverty alleviating programme is initiated, it would mean that a solution is being simultaneously implemented. In this case study, one would be forgiven to assume that by initiating an irrigation project, a solution was being simultaneously advanced to enhance the food security status quo of households within the area. For example, the Cash/Food for Asset programme was initiated to reduce hunger and poverty in selected areas in Zimbabwe. Kinsey, Burger & Gunning (1998: 117) suggest some of the questions which need to be addressed in impact evaluations. However, just like the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme, the impacts of the programme on to the socio-economic status in the area, through its intended goals, remain unknown. Therefore, it was the purpose of this study to carry out research to bring to the fore the unknown and unrecognised changes, whether positive or negative, which have been brought about, due to the impact of the project. In an attempt to elaborate on this cause, a number of questions that may assist in evaluation have been suggested by Kinsey, Burger & Gunning (1998: 89). These are as follows:

- Do key policies/programmes in the poverty reduction strategy achieve the intended goal?
- Can the changes in poverty outcomes be explained by those programmes, or are they the result of some other intervening factors occurring simultaneously?

- Do key programme impacts vary across different groups of intended beneficiaries (males, females, and indigenous people), regions, and over time? If so, what are the cultural, economic, and political factors that limit the full participation of women or other vulnerable groups in the program benefits?
- Are there any unintended effects, either positive or negative?
- How effective are key programmes in comparison with alternative interventions?
- Are key programmes worth the resources they cost?

In this study, the relevance of the theoretical assumptions underlying these questions was examined. This helps in explaining their applicability in the assessment of the outcomes in development projects. Therefore, the applicability of the concept in the socio-economic impact evaluation of the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation programme in the Mount Darwin area was therefore assessed based on some of the guidelines suggested above. The questions are used as general guidelines, not as imminent bases. Kinsey, Burger & Gunning (1998: 117) emphasised the need to note that evaluations do not estimate the magnitude of effects and assign causation. However, as in this study Kinsey, Burger & Gunning (1998) admitted that such a causal analysis is essential for understanding the effectiveness of alternative programme interventions in reducing poverty and for designing appropriate poverty reduction strategies. This is because primarily, this study was to evaluate the socio-economic impact of the irrigation programme in the case study area.

In the example of the Cash/Food for Asset programme which was a conceptual the premise of this study, development projects like the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project can be considered to be of strategic relevance. Kinsey, Burger & Gunning (1998: 118) established that in a poor agrarian economy, expansion of agricultural technology and improvement of grain production may be critical for household and food security. Kinsey, Burger & Gunning (1998) also further argued that such intervention can crucial for poverty reduction in which an evaluation of policies or programs to expand food production are done but they admitted that productivity would then need to become a high-priority task. Just as the irrigation project, the Cash/Food for Asset programme in Zimbabwe was adopted to enhance food security. For instance, earlier during the month of September in 2015, the Japanese government, through WFP, availed an amount of \$1, 5 million dollars to villagers in Mwenezi. During the unveiling of the donation it was it was reported that the Japanese ambassador stated that the donation would go a long way in curbing high food insecurity the

area records (Takawira, 2015)⁷. The donation was meant to help local communities sustain themselves through community assets which include irrigation, nutrition gardens and rehabilitation of wires.

2.5.3. Monitoring and Evaluation as a concept

It is crucial to get an in-depth understanding of monitoring and evaluation as a concept. In the process of doing this research, it became necessary to obtain a clear understanding of the emergence of M&E concept. In modern times, it can be traced 45 years down the line, making it not a new concept. More than 5,000 years ago, the ancient Egyptians regularly monitored their country's outputs in grain and livestock production. In this sense, monitoring and evaluation is certainly not a new phenomenon (Kusek & Rist, 2004:11). The notion of trying to measure the performance of a development project or an aid project throughout the life of the project, as opposed to simply trying to understand what went right or wrong in hindsight, was first promoted by Herb Turner in the 1970s (Crawford & Bryce, 2003:366). However, despite the unclear historical origin of the concept, it is crucial to establish working definitions and establish the meanings of the concepts concerned thus far. In an attempt to get a clearer understanding, the concept is broken down so that monitoring is clarified first, then followed by evaluation, and finally the combined monitoring and evaluation concept.

2.5.3.1. Role of monitoring and evaluation

All along, the role of monitoring and evaluation is also the importance to understand the terminology. It remains unclear in most cases as to whether Monitoring & Evaluation are separate concepts. In carrying out this study, there are other areas that were identified in the project that helps to further explain the role of monitoring and evaluation. With all this having been noted the lack of legitimate separation of the concept, it is at this point where it is crucial to focus on the roles of M&E. Baker (2000:23) stated that, "in defining evaluation design, it is also important to determine how the impact evaluation fit into the whole broader monitoring and evaluation applied into a project." This statement helps to strengthen the importance of M&E to development projects and seem to suggest that it exists as a whole, rather looking at the two terms differently.

It is important to understand the M&E concept earlier so as to empirically employ it to a given situation. In trying to clarify any confusion that surrounds the distinction of the monitoring and evaluation terminology, Baker, (2000:23) gave a form of an example and

⁷ <http://263chat.com/2015/09/japan-saves-mwenezi-from-high-stunting-levels/>

postulated that, “all projects must be monitored so that administrators, lenders, and policymakers can keep track of the project as it unfolds. The evaluation effort must be tailored to the information requirements of the project.” In this study a full understanding of the role of M&E on a development project was established after an analysis of the interviews I conducted with professional and experienced M&E officers and programmes officers of different NGOs in Zimbabwe.

Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) has profound importance to development projects. It is all about credible answers to the “so what” question which address the accountability concerns of stakeholders, give public sector managers information on progress toward achieving stated targets and goals, and provide substantial evidence as the basis for any necessary mid-course corrections in policies, programmes, or projects (Kusek & Rist, 2004:12). Information gained from monitoring and evaluation is important to government or an organisation for the information will be used to make an improvement in a development project.

Roles of monitoring and evaluation can be complimentary. Highlighting on the difference but yet complementary roles that monitoring and evaluation play in M&E systems, Kusek & Rist (2004:13) agreed that both concepts can be done at the project, program or policy level. Even though there is a difference between traditional M&E, the importance of this study was to investigate which is wholesome e.g. Kusek & Rist (2004:19) stated that, “the results-based M&E systems have been successfully designed and used to monitor and evaluate at all levels—project, program, and policy.” This is no exception and in this study, the same evaluative method is used to investigate the impacts of the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme as a development project.

Figure 2.2: The difference but yet complimentary roles of monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring	Evaluation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarifies program objectives • Links activities and their resources to objectives • Translates objectives into performance indicators and sets targets • Routinely collects data on these indicators, compares actual results with targets • Reports progress to managers and alerts them to problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyzes why intended results were or were not achieved • Assesses specific causal contributions of activities to results • Examines implementation process • Explores unintended results • Provides lessons, highlights significant accomplishment or program potential, and offers recommendations for improvement

Source: Kusek & Rist, 2004:14

Figure 2.2 shows the different, but yet complementary roles of monitoring and evaluation. It provides a deeper understanding of the concept. In addition to this, despite differences in meaning, it is compelling for one to note that at times both terms overlap and can be used interchangeably.

2.5.3.2. Concept dilemma

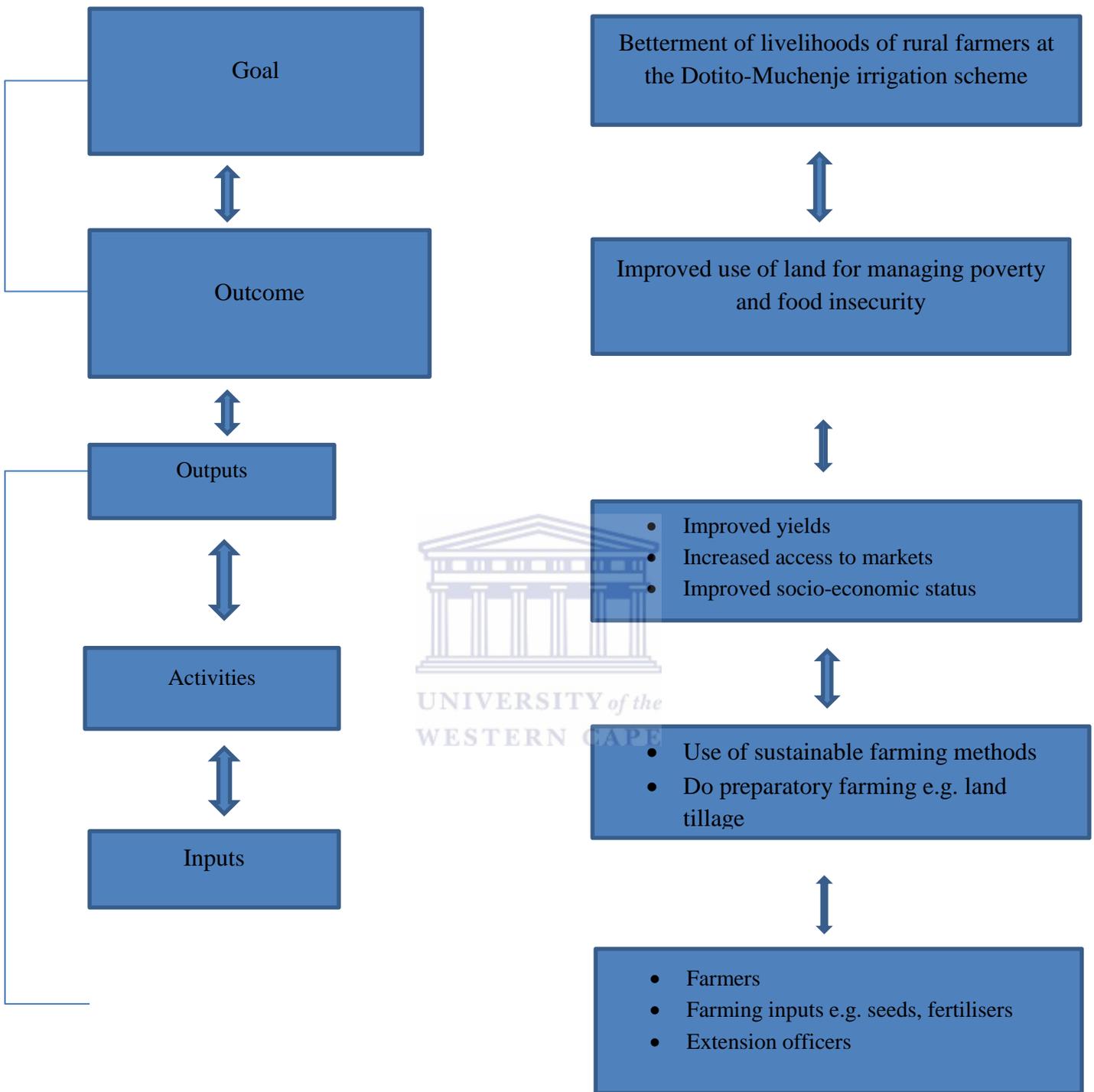
Monitoring and Evaluation (M& E) are two concepts that are mostly used interchangeably in some cases. Mentioned earlier in chapter one was a definition by Khan *et al* (2003) who defines monitoring basically as an on-going activity to track down progress of work in respect of planned activities and evaluation as a periodic activity, which gets its input partly from regular monitoring and partly from a planned review at a certain point in time or at regular interval. In giving clarity on the distinct, yet complementary understanding of monitoring and evaluation, one may say that monitoring gives information on where a policy, programme, or project is at any given time (and over time) relative to respective targets and outcomes and is descriptive in intent while, evaluation gives evidence of why targets and outcomes are or are not being achieved and seeks to address issues of causality (Kusek & Rist, 2004:13). Given this overview, one justified to say that there is no clear-cut in the use of the

two concepts as John (2008) also suggested the need for both monitoring and evaluation to cross artificial boundaries. In trying to bring light to the definitions, John distinguished monitoring and evaluation by suggesting that with monitoring, the visit takes place when a project is on-going, to suggest mid-course corrections and evaluation is a situation when a one-year term is ending and there is an opportunity to look back and identify areas of strengths, learning and improvements. Attempting to make a clearer definition of the concept and highlighting on a split difference between monitoring and evaluation, Dale (2004) writes extensively on what he calls the ‘grey zones’ between what is meant by monitoring and evaluation respectively.

Just like in any other form of assessment, the monitoring and evaluation concept will be used in the assessment of the livelihoods. The development of the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation is a perfect example of a national development goal as can be shown on the illustrative logic model below.



Figure 2.2: The Illustrative Logic Model for One National Development Goal



Source: Kusek & Rist, 2004:18

Figure 2.3 clearly shows the importance of doing monitoring and evaluation. It is a fundamental tool which is being utilised by a range of organisations to date. The project begins with a goal Figure 2.3, the goal in the implementation of the project as assumed in this

illustrative logic model is the betterment of rural farmers' livelihoods at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme. Therefore, an outcome assessment was to be conducted to ascertain if the project is able/has been able to provide the farmers with a platform for an improved use of land to manage poverty and food insecurity. In order to achieve these goals and outcomes, there are activities that the farmers are required to do and the inputs they require. Therefore, this outcome assessment of the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme gives an account on how to evaluate development projects. Given that M&E is a broader concept applicable in many aspects like assessment of policies programmes with the only difference being in technicality for instance. In this case study, the concept was being used in an analytical perspective of the gains of the farmers at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project and the overall assessment of the project impact on their livelihoods. However, in order to achieve the underlying objectives of the impacts made in the farmers' livelihoods by the project, aspects such as food security and empowerment were scrutinised. Therefore, in order to give a general insight into the study, a short breakdown and explanation of the concepts involved in the assessment has been given.

2.6. Food security

It is necessary to define food security as the concept constitutes the main theme of this study. FAO (2008), citing a working definition from the 1996 World Food Summit, argues that food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. By the virtue of the growth of emerging countries, Zimbabwe experienced and emerged as one of the fastest growing economies in the Sub-Sahara Africa in the 1990s. However, economic problems started to loom in the country in 1999 and Zimbabwe faced an unprecedented economic and social crisis (Munyanyi, 2005:31). The period from 2008 onwards was mainly what was of interest in this study. During this period, a crisis gripped not only Zimbabwe alone, but swept across the globe. Since then, most households are faced with socio-economic challenges and struggle to put food on the table. In addition to the global crisis, the socio-economic household challenges in Zimbabwe escalated due to poor harvests. The situation got bad as poverty and food insecurity worsened the prevailing challenges. While conducting fieldwork, I observed scores of people supplementing their food supply by gathering fruits and other unfamiliar food stuffs. That is why I am convinced to say that economically, Zimbabwe was in a dire state at that time, a situation which was evidenced by the period of hyper-inflation.

Food problems in the country intensified during this period, possibly leading to the emergence of the Cash/Food for Asset programme as a solution by World Food Programme Zimbabwe. The worst affected areas were mainly rural areas and some semi-urban areas. During this period, a number of NGOs' and humanitarian organisation activities increased (Munyanyi, 2005:33). High inflation periods have repercussions on the livelihoods of people and households. The periods are normally associated with the inability to access basic goods and services for livelihoods. Writing on inflation, Munyanyi (2005) referred to the astounding inflation figures as being a reflection on how the livelihoods of Zimbabweans were restrained.

2.6.1. Factors leading to food insecurity

A number of factors that contribute to food insecurity differ by region and by each year. Some of the factors leading to food insecurity like droughts are linked to bad climatic conditions. In Zimbabwe, droughts and other secondary effects are a major concern. In September 2015, the Mwenezi District Administrator, Mrs Rosemary Chigwe was quoted attributing high plants stunting growth levels as a result of a prolonged dry spell that usually hits the area (Takawira, 2015). The stunting growth challenge in Mwenezi district, as has been stated by Mrs Chigwe, is prominent in most Zimbabwean rural areas and has impacted heavily on poor farmers.

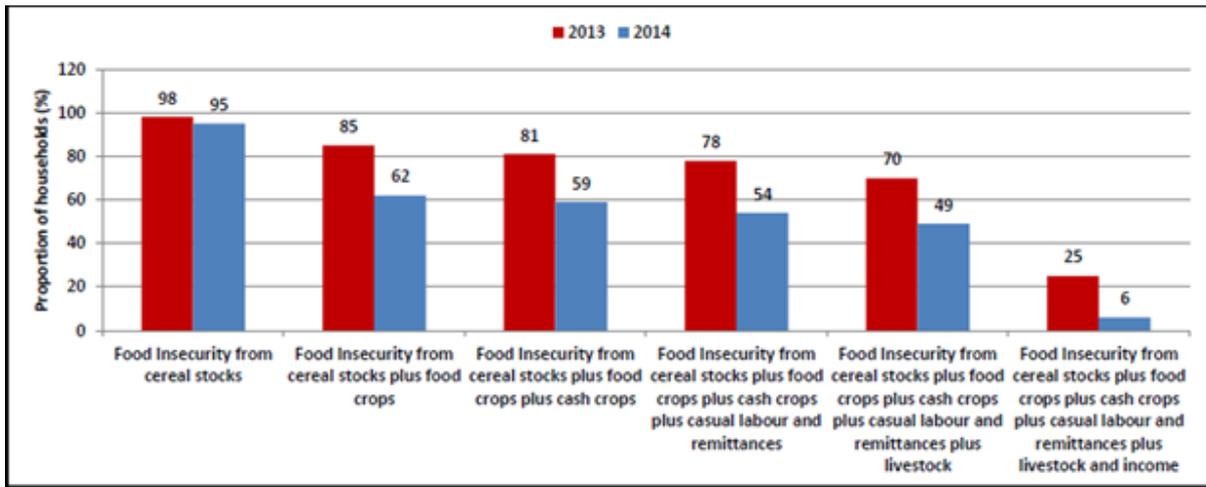
In trying to establish the real factor leading to food insecurity, different theories have been brought forward and these have attempted to provide solutions, but food insecurity has remained difficult to address. Seeking to establish the reasons for the rise in food prices, economists and political leaders have explained the reduction in food availability as an outcome of a number of factors. These include, declining growth in productivity due to drought, water scarcity and land degradation, along with the conversion of food staples into biofuels (or agro-fuels, as they have also been termed) in which the latter is as of a response both to spiralling oil prices and to state-based incentives to reduce national dependency upon oil (Loewenberg, 2008; UNEP, 2009). Apart from all these factors mentioned above, there are other factors affecting food security.

There is a need to look at multiple ways of ensuring food security. This is because food security is not solely accomplished through the production and harvest in the agricultural season concerned. There is a need to have closer focus on the third factors with which their secondary effects are a concern as far as food security is concerned. Therefore, their effects

should not be underestimated. While such explanations are logically appealing, attempts have been and some are going through in different contextual areas inclusive the case study of this research. On the other side of the story, bearing in mind of the secondary effects resulting from such factors such as the ones that has been listed above, both ways which are aimed at trying to get rid of food insecurity through food hand out assistance and the newly adopted C/FFA it should be noted that in combination, both effects have a casual relation to food availability. Nevertheless, such developments such as adoption of new strategies of fighting hunger and poverty are attempts to unmask broader socio-economic settings in the field, along with the actions of powerful corporations and global regulating bodies, which shape the ways foods are grown, distributed and ultimately end up – or for a growing number, don't end up – in the mouths of consumers (Lawrence, Lyons & Wallington, 2010:2).

The country has five natural regions (agro economy zones) defined around climatic conditions with the majority of people in rural areas engaged in subsistence farming, characterized by low productivity and minimal use of purchased inputs and capital (Zeleka & Turigari, 2011:1). The country's food security situation is generally varied based on these agro economy zones as other parts of the country are rich with food reserves while other sections are hard-hit with food insecurity. However, despite the fact that some agro economic zones are capable of boasting high food yield volumes, access to food does not correspond with a balanced diet. Moreover, food security to these agro economic zones has never been consistent in Zimbabwe given threats posed by droughts. On the other side of the coin, where people do not have access to enough food, the households depended on the income source to provide for the families (ZimVAC, 2014:88). Since 2009, between 1.05 million and 1.67 million people, which is 12 to 19 per cent of the rural population, have been requiring food assistance during lean seasons (WFP Executive Board, 2013:3).

Figure 2.3: Food insecurity by income source

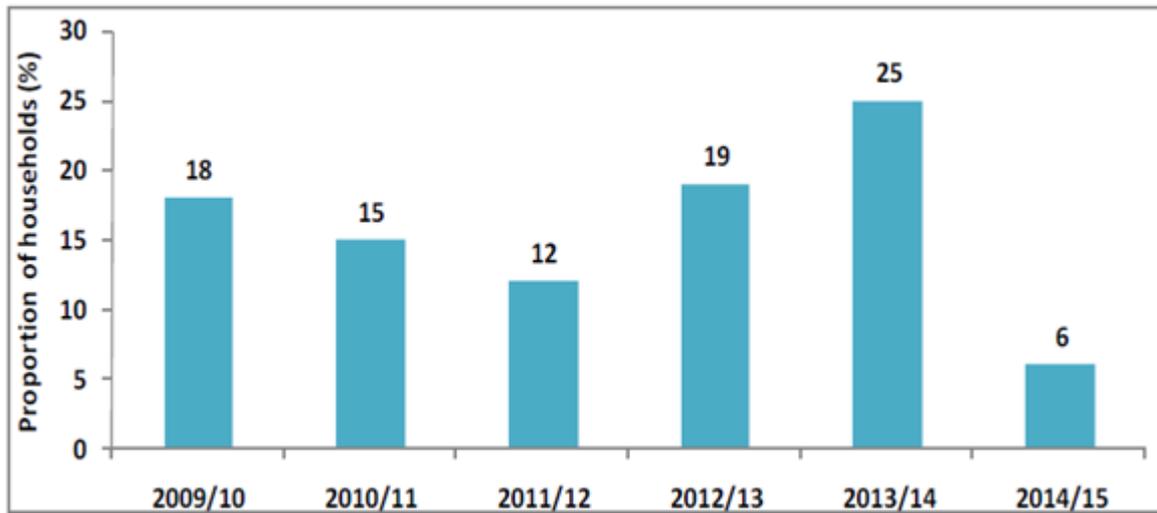


Source: ZimVAC, 2014:88

Data used to come up with the above shown statistics was collected between the year 2013 and 2014 by the ⁸ Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC). In an attempt to show the vulnerability of people to food insecurity, proportions as high as 98% in 2013 and 95% in 2014 was recorded. Zimbabweans depends on cereal and food crops for their staple food. It is a worrying situation as on Figure 2.4, food insecurity from both cereal stocks and food crops are high with 85% in 2013 and 62% in 2014 per proportion of household. The country is a low-income, food-deficit country which is ranked 173rd of the 187 countries on the Human Development Index (WFP Executive Board, 2013:5). This therefore, exacerbates the need for development agencies, as can be evidenced by food aid organisations that have been witnessed in the country. In another supportive statement to strengthen the perception of food insecurity and validate the need of projects like the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation, ZimVAC (2014:87) notes, “The 2014/15 consumption year at peak (January to March) is projected to have 6% of rural households’ food insecure. This is a 76% decrease compared to the previous consumption year.” Thus, all the information shown on the graph shows the country’s food insecurity percentage status per household proportion.

⁸ ZimVAC provides information that informs government and development organizations on programming necessary for saving lives and strengthening rural livelihoods in Zimbabwe.

Figure 2.4: Food Security Trend (2009-2014)



Source: ZimVAC (2014:87)

Figure 2.5 shows the inconsistency of food security in the country. Varying household percentage proportions were recorded from 2009 to 2014. High food security percentage per household of 25% in 2013/14 was recorded and a low percentage of 6% was also recorded in 2014/15 during the same period. This proportion represented about 564,599 people being at peak, not being able to meet their annual food requirements (ZimVAC, 2014:87).

2.6.2 Cash/Food for Asset programme

2.6.2.1 Programme Background

Generally, most rural economies in Zimbabwe depend on agriculture. At times, for instance during bad seasons, some of these rural areas experience droughts. It is this prevalence of draught that led WFP, a regular food aid organisation in the country to come up with Cash/Food for Asset programme. The programme was the *modus operandi* in trying to solve some of the challenges faced in some rural communities in the country. Dependency on rainfall makes the agricultural sector and the entire economy highly vulnerable to drought (Zeleka & Turigari, 2011:3). This has necessitated the need to initiate other development projects. It helps to explain the beginning of the Cash/Food for Asset programme and other similar project.

In its functional being, the programme was been intended to act as a form of employment for the beneficiaries while they also earning food or cash vouchers. This is mainly because a vast number of people in employed labour force are well off the food insecure as compared to the

unemployed ones. If a person is employed, it means that one job is secured and one has the financial power to live within the Poverty Datum Line (P.D.L). Today, understanding the labour market is as important for addressing food security problems of the rural and the urban poor in developing countries as understanding the food market (Von Braun, 1995:1). Given the high rate of unemployment in Zimbabwe, the C/FFA concept is something which development people (government or NGOs), particularly the funding institutions, really need to ponder about. This is a form of reprieve for most vulnerable people in these remote areas. Since development is a people-focused concept, its contents in specific situations must be clarified in relation to people-related problems (Dale, 2004:21). Therefore, while addressing challenges of food shortages; the programme is also a form of employment. This directly applies to the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme where people are farming for food as well as producing surplus for sell. In this way, the development project is clarified in relation to the people's problems.

The research focuses on the socio-economic issues of the people residing in the case study area. Takawira (2015) provides a brief statement about asset creation by Japanese ambassador to Zimbabwe, Yoshinobu Hiraishi who spoke after the completion of the Mwenezi dam under the WFP's robust asset creation programme, said: "the programme seeks to strengthen the power of resistance of the local community to natural disasters such as drought by helping community to build viable assets such as this Dam." In exploring the impacts of the irrigation scheme at Dotito, this research is a juxtaposition of an assessment of the Cash/Food for Asset programme and the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project. Dreze and Sen 1989 cited in Von Braun (1995) postulated that it is now widely accepted that food security is at least as much a matter of poverty. There is a correlation between food security and poverty. This is because if at a certain stage, people are food insecure, they also may find themselves in poverty and if they are in poverty, they may also find themselves food insecure. Therefore, it is understandable to say that food security is more or less the same issue as issues around poverty.

Additionally, one would have said that the Cash/Food for Asset programme in Zimbabwe was a reminiscence of the food for work programme which was initiated in many countries and in Zimbabwe, in 1992. Such an initiative was advocated as a means of employment and addressing food security in vulnerable communities. Von Braun (1995) has warned that too little attention has been paid to the idea of investing in productive and remunerative employment for the poor as an alternative to subsidising food (or capital). This statement

shades light on the importance of development projects like the Cash/Food for Asset programme. The WFP decided to implement a programme such as Cash/Food for Asset programme which varied to the usual subsidies food hand-outs in selected districts inclusive of Mount Darwin. This form of a programme, however, is not something new in efforts to address food security. Von Braun (1995:1) postulates that, “during the 1980s, many countries shifted their policies away from food subsidies and toward more developmental policies for poverty reduction and are now striving to implement such policies.”

The inadvertent introduction of the Cash/Food for Asset programme needed to be understood, but first, it is important to get to know how the key organisations are related. WFP is the supreme driver of the programme. However, in implementing the programme, WFP which is in Zimbabwe, is partnered by a host of organisations. In order to understand the works and activities of NGOs, one needs to know the distinction made by Lewis (1998) where he identifies North Non-Governmental Organisations (NNGOs) and South Non-Governmental Organisations (SNGOs). NNGOs are identified as those NGOs with their roots in industrialised countries and SNGOs are characterised as local southern NGOs which exist in many aid recipient countries. In the case study, these NGOs are just the same as WFP, World Vision among other development agencies and humanitarian organisations.

Highlighting the near achievement of the MDGs by some countries where about 72 out of 129 having achieved the target of halving undernourishment by 2015, Mhlana (2015) quoted the FAO Director General, Jose Graziano da Silva as stating that, “the near achievement of the MDG hunger targets shows us that we can indeed eliminate the scourge of hunger in our lifetime. We must be the Zero Hunger generation.” One can easily relate the foregoing statement to the Cash/Food for Asset programme initiation which was initiated during the global crises which shocked the world in 2008. The impact of this was largely felt by food deprived households and individuals. Before the global financial crisis became acutely visible in late 2008, the crisis in food and agriculture had already taken hold (Lawrence et al, 2010:1). In this respect Graziano emphasized the need for elimination of hunger to be mainstreamed into all policy interventions and at the launch of the new sustainable development agenda which was established this later 2015 (Mhlana, 2015).

The inadvertent introduction of the Cash/Food for Asset programme marked the introduction of a project by WFP and partner organisations aimed at working with local farmers. Food security in low-income countries may be achieved through sustained efforts by the local

small-scale and subsistence farming communities, with the active support from local, national and international agencies (Bakker, 2011:1). In order to buy in the idea of the Cash/Food for Asset programme concept, the people staying in the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme spheres of influence had to value the possible impact of the programme on their livelihoods. This is in line with Bakker's (2011:1) elaboration that, "any such effort will endure only if those small-scale farming communities and subsistence farmers feel that their interests are protected."

Therefore, those local communities should be involved in the process of working towards sustainable food security to the extent that they consider that they 'own' the project designed for that purpose (Bakker, 2011:1). In a UN hunger report released on the 28th of May to mark commemoration of the world hunger day a document titled 'The State of Food Insecurity' where it shown that the world hunger figures had dropped to 795 million, Mhlana (2015) of *The New Age* wrote that the number of people suffering from hunger has declined to 12, 9% of the population, down from 23, 3% over the last two decades.

2.6.3. Conclusion

The chapter provided an indication of the theoretical framework used for the study as well as literature review on the importance of assessment. In doing this, a theoretical background of the approach was also provided. Reasons underlying the use of the sustainable livelihoods approach were given. An explanation of development projects was provided. This chapter provided a conceptual and theoretical background to the assessment of Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project in this research. Looking at the literature review, detailed information on methods of assessment was given. The methods of assessment adopted and reviewed in the study were based on monitoring and evaluation. These research dimensions are fundamental in doing an outcome assessment of the irrigation project. In literature review process, a brief background of the Cash/Food for Asset was given, linking directly to my research on food security in the study area. The next chapter describes the research methodology used for the study and describes the data gathering process.

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Methodology Underpinning the Assessment of the Outcome Impacts of the Dotito-Muchenje Irrigation Project in Mount Darwin District, Mashonaland Central Province, Zimbabwe

3. Introduction

This chapter provides the contextual background for the study. It also discusses the research methods used for the study. It begins by locating the study within the research setting and thereafter, deals with methodology. The challenges encountered during fieldwork, the method and tools used for data collection, the research design, sampling procedure and sampling techniques are all described in detail in the second part of the chapter.

3.1. Contextual background to this study

3.1.1. Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe is a relatively small country located on the southern part of the African continent. The country's total population is currently at 13 061 239 (ZimStat, 2012:14). Zimbabwe is divided into ten provinces; namely Harare, Bulawayo, Manicaland, Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland East, Mashonaland West, Masvingo, Matebeleland North, Matebeleland South and Midlands.

3.1.2 Mashonaland Central Province

Mashonaland Central province (Figure 3.1) on page 44 is one of the ten provinces in the country. Just like the other nine provinces in the country, the province is also politically and economically divided. Moreover, according to the Zimbabwe natural regions categorisation the province is located in Natural Region One, meaning that it falls under an area of specialised farming. In this sense the province is an area in which agriculture is economically supported. However, despite the province categorised as falling within the Natural Region One, some of the areas within the province are food insecure. This uneven food security or insecurity which compromises peoples' livelihoods has motivated this study to assess the impact of the intervention initiated by government. The knowledge acquired from the research findings will be made available so they can be used to assess the resultant impact of other development agency's projects.

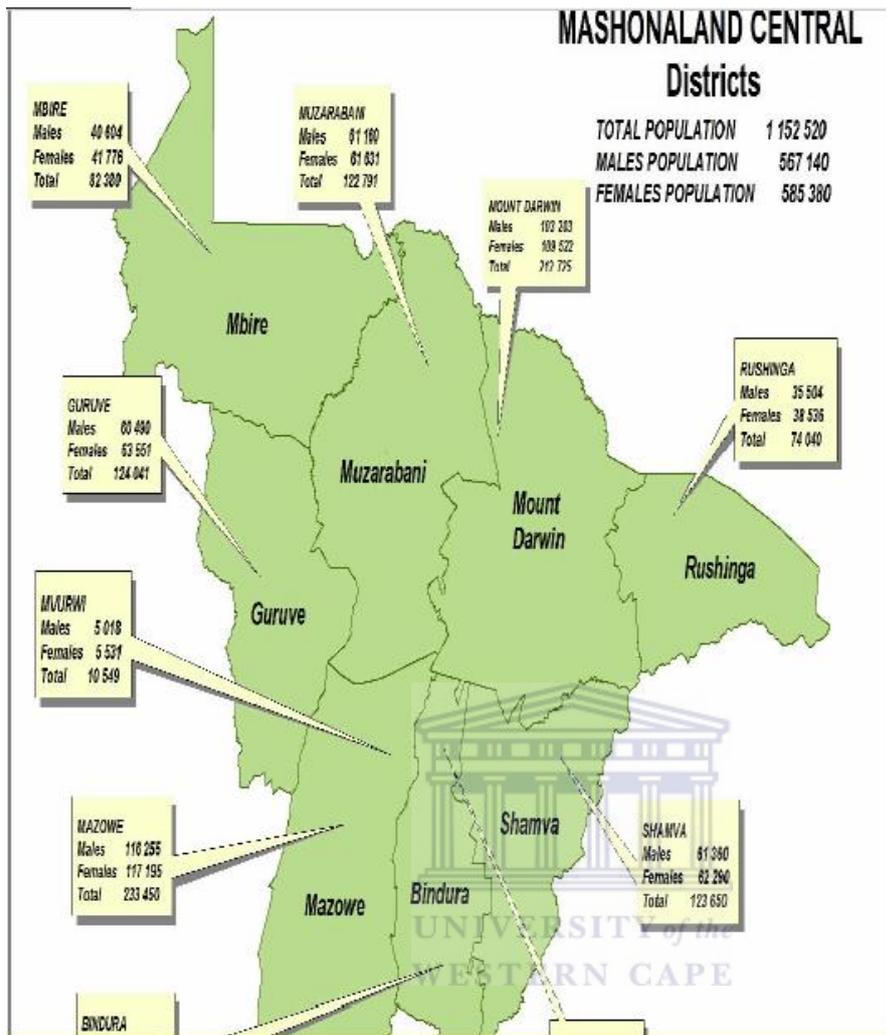
The province where the study is based, is one of the notorious regions in the country which was embroiled in the disputed Zimbabwean land reform programme. Politically, it is

dominated by ZANU-PF loyal supporters and is the party stronghold. According to Makumbe (2008:9), “confronted with the inevitable prospect of losing political power, since early 2000 the ZANU-PF regime has transformed Zimbabwe into a fascist state where the rule of law is not only selectively applied, but new and effectively draconian legislation is generated and used as a tool of repression.” This has culminated in the ruling party to see any organisation, even NGOs as a threat to its power. There are reports of constant ⁹threats to Civil Societies and NGOs from the president and his ruling party. For example the, the Daily News (2016) released a story on Mugabe’s recent threats to the NGOs. According to anonymous development practitioners, some of these threats have made it difficult for organisations to operate in Mashonaland Central and other politically instable regions. This usually impacts negatively when it comes to development projects.



⁹ President Mugabe’s recent threat to ban NGOs
(<https://www.dailynews.co.zw/articles/2016/02/02/mugabe-s-threats-to-ban-ngos-ill-advised>)

Figure 3.1: Mashonaland Central and district of the case study area



Source: ZimStat (2012:1)

The province is partitioned into eight (8) districts and its provincial capital is Bindura. Among the eight districts in the province, Figure 3.1 is the Mount Darwin Pfura rural district council, which is where the Case Study for this research is based. In the absence of many sources which can be used to describe the case study area,¹⁰ Mount Darwin town can be described as the town that functions as a capital of the district with a shopping centre serving local areas. The irrigation scheme, which was under investigation in this study, is situated in the Mount Darwin district.

3.1.3 Mount Darwin: Case Study Area

The case study area is in the Mount Darwin district, located about 100 kilometres to the North-West of Harare, Zimbabwe's capital city. Babbie and Mouton, (2001:280), postulate

¹⁰ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Darwin_District

that case studies are vital tools in scientific enquiry given that they give much information on the context within which they are set. This also inspired my decision to use Mount Darwin district as a case study so that people can make informed statements on rural smallholder farmers, irrigation schemes, food security and their livelihoods.

3.1.4 Dotito

Dotito is a rural town which in the Zimbabwean context is classified as a ¹¹ growth point. The Dotito growth point falls under the Mount Darwin district. This particular area is home to the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme, the project which is the subject of inquiry in this study. The selection of this area has been influenced by the livelihoods of the people in this area, which in terms of development, seemed to be in the deprivation trap. Swanepoel and de Beer (2012) described the deprivation trap as a situation where people are rendered vulnerable due to poverty, isolation, powerlessness and physical weakness. The majority of the people in the deprivation trap live in rural areas and squatter settlements on the outskirts of cities and towns (Swanepoel and de Beer, 2011:5). As a rural area, Dotito fits into the above description, making it appropriate as a case study. It is the livelihoods of the farmers at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme and how the project impacted on them which form the foundation of this study. Writing on the importance of development projects, although he mentions techno-economic development projects as important, Bapat (2005) identifies these projects as always located in relatively economically underdeveloped regions and in the case of developed states, usually in agriculturally underdeveloped, drought-prone regions, with high out-migrations of people leaving going to other areas. Despite the issue of high out-migration being inconspicuous or unaccounted for in Dotito, the study acknowledges the above statement and agrees that the area is agriculturally underdeveloped and drought-prone.

3.1.5. Reflections on the case study project

The Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project became the centre of study. All activities at the irrigation scheme became subject for data collection. Information collected at scheme helped in the assessment of the livelihoods of the beneficiary farmers at the scheme. I decided to focus on the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project because I saw this as an interesting area of study and it is in line with developmental projects. In this sense, the irrigation scheme constituted a feasible platform for me to do research. In addition to this, the irrigation scheme

¹¹ A growth point was generally used to define a rural township in Zimbabwe

also fitted with my initial plan to do a research on a Cash/Food for Asset (C/FFA) programme and in this case the partitioned plots represented the asset. Therefore, in the interest of this study, the irrigation scheme is an asset on which the local people's livelihoods are supposed to be transformed. This boils down to the assessment of the project and which became the essence of the study to probe whether the presence of the project has positive or negatively transformed the lives of farmers. In probing this cause, I have invested much emphasis to the roles and the need for implementing Monitoring and Evaluation as the resulting impacts emanates from such implemented development projects.

3.2. Research Methodology underpinning the study

This study provides an assessment of the Outcome Impacts of the Dotito-Muchenje Irrigation Project in Mount Darwin District, Mashonaland Central Province, Zimbabwe. In this section, I seek to describe in detail, the data collection method, the research design, sampling procedure and sampling techniques, and the tools used to for data collection. The unit of data analysis is also presented in this chapter. Intricate information on the socio-economic situations of the farmers at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme is divulged to gain much detail of the project and to establish how it benefits the farmers. In assessing the project, roles of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) have been used in unpacking developments at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme. In the build-up to the research design and sampling methods section of this chapter, I feel it is imperative to give an insight into the experiences and challenges that I encountered during my preparations to go conduct fieldwork.

3.2.1. Data Collection - A reflexive approach

The methodology section outlines the data collection methods and research design that I have used during the fieldwork. However, before I engage in a discussion on the research methods and design, it is fundamental to describe the fieldwork experience. To begin with, embarking on fieldwork for the purposes of data collection was an experience that I was really looking forward to, unknowing the ordeal that was to follow for my entire stay in Zimbabwe (See appendix attached). Conducting the fieldwork turned to be a challenging experienced and took a different course from what I had initially anticipated. As a researcher, I would like to highlight some of the experiences that I have gone through during my brief stay in Zimbabwe while collecting data. The challenges include, refusal to provide information by some of the organisations, and operating on a constrained research budget, since most of the fieldwork

was self-funded. However, there were some positive things to take-away from the whole experience, which was an eye opener to me. After successfully completing the fieldwork, I felt that the experience and challenges I came across added to and improved my research skills and this would be useful in my future work experience.

It was at the point where I was refused access to information by the organisation from which I had initially planned to obtain data from about their project before I decided to explore other possible avenues which provided me a direct link to a developmental project. After deep reflections on possible projects that could be selected, the idea of the irrigation project came up, and fortunately I had chosen the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme.

3.2.2 Research Design

The methodology section was drafted in a way that would foster the best way to collect data and source other useful information. Material gathered in the process provided a platform to explore development projects. In this case study, it was presumed that in order to yield the best possible results on the outcomes assessment of the irrigation scheme as a development project, the research needs to consider the identification and determination of impacts as outlined by Ile, Eresia-Eke and Allen-Ile (2012:2). This means that not all socio-economic issues were considered in data collection, but only selected issues that relate to development were identified and captured in the data collection process. Due to limited sources of information on the irrigation project, only important data such as the socio-economic impacts like poverty, inequality, income and economic activities, employment and unemployment ratios was queried in the data collection session. Such information was gathered to give a true reflection on the livelihoods of people at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme.

3.2.3 Method of Data Collection

Moments prior to travelling for data collection, I drafted the data collection tools and had planned that everything would go accordingly as planned. The data collection tools consisted of questionnaires, interviews and general site observations. I chose this method as it was also used in a similar study on the sustainability of the rural water supply and sanitation scheme by Kwangware et al (2014) which was done in the same province where data was gathered through households' survey, focus group discussion, key informant interviews and field observation.

3.2.4 Data collection process

I recruited a research assistant who was familiar with and had knowledge of the case study area, where the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme is situated. The research assistant helped me in conducting interview sessions, assisting respondents in filling the questionnaires and writing notes. In order to identify participants, the names of the beneficiaries of the irrigation scheme, who also constitute the participants part in the research were to be drawn from a pool of names, which were to be provided by the relevant authority. However, I failed to get the list of names of the irrigation scheme beneficiaries from the relevant authority, and in this case I also made use of the snowball sampling method.

3.2.5. Indicators for data collection

I could not acquire secondary data on the case study area and therefore I utilized primary data. In an attempt to try to get relevant information, data was collected using indicators focusing around the following thematic areas (1) socio-demographic characteristics of the case study area and of respondents, (2) food security status and Cash/Food for Asset programme concept application in the case study area, (3) possible socio-economic impact areas of the project such as household food access, health, nutrition and food consumption patterns, child labour, education and self-empowerment, (4) institutional challenges confronting the programme in the case study area. The data gathered is analysed using both qualitative and quantitative tools as follows;

3.2.6. Brief explanation on the data collection tools

During the study, data collection was done using questionnaires, interviews and general observations. Questionnaires formed a great lead in investigating the outcome impacts of the irrigation scheme as a development project. The questionnaires were administered to the plot beneficiaries on the 23rd of July 2015 at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme. In this case the questionnaires were crucial in ascertaining the socio-economic status of the people at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme and getting a view on whether or not the scheme has positive or negatively impacted the livelihoods development of the farmers.

Interview sessions were conducted with different organisation officials mostly from local NGOs. The officials consulted are experienced working in assessment related positions such as Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) officers, programmes officers and other related positions alike. Discussions were centred on development projects, the C/FFA and Monitoring and Evaluation. Apart from interviewing officials from different institutions, I also interviewed a

person representing the chairperson of the scheme. I interviewed this individual on the premise that he had knowledge of the irrigation scheme and was part of the leadership at the scheme.

Observations were done throughout the study with attention paid to changes in the livelihoods of farmers at the scheme. Observations were also used to gather information and relate the answers from respondents to the project activities. I observed the irrigation scheme as we toured the scheme because I wanted to relate what the respondents were saying to the practical conditions on the scheme and the community.

3.2.7 Sample size and sampling procedure

I did not use a quantifiable sample size but I used specific sampling methods, the snowball and purposive sampling to get participants. I used these sampling techniques because it was difficult to get participants (beneficiary farmers). I brought in these sampling techniques mainly because I had failed to retrieve a list of beneficiaries to draw up a specific sample size on. Snowball sampling is used to identify participants when appropriate candidates for study are difficult to locate (Dattalo, 2008:6). Therefore, with the few beneficiary farmers at the irrigation site, they managed to refer their colleagues to me. The unavailability of the list also gave me room to employ purposive sampling. When I employed purposive sampling I used my understanding of what a development project entails as has been highlighted earlier in the paper and what a standard livelihood would entail to the beneficiaries. This is because through purposive sampling, elements are selected based on the researcher's judgment that they will provide access to the desired information (Dattalo, 2008:6). Just as in snowball sampling, I saw it fit to employ a purposive sampling method because of the unavailability of a list of beneficiaries from relevant authorities or any published information on the project.

3.2.8 Data analysis and presentation

Data collected was coded and entered into ATLAS ti and SPSS for qualitative and quantitative analysis respectively. Findings from the analysis were then presented statistically and in descriptive form enabling me to have a visual representation of the impact of the project in the case study area. Data generated from interview was recorded, transcribed, analysed and presented in the form of figures, tables and narratives based on empirical evidence.

3.3. Chapter conclusion

This chapter presented the study methodology and described in detail the processes involved. Research methodology aspects that formed the discussion included data collection method, sampling procedure and sampling techniques, and the tools used for data collection. Information collected through the data collection tools provided the research with intricate information used for analysis on the socio-economic situations of the farmers at the irrigation scheme. The information generated therefore provided room to divulge and gain as much needed details of the project and how it impacted on the livelihoods of the farmers. The next chapter outlines and examines the outcome assessment of the project based on data collected.



CHAPTER FOUR: DATA ANALYSIS

Analysis of Research Results to Assess the Dotito-Muchenje Irrigation Project in Mount Darwin District, Mashonaland Central Province, Zimbabwe

4. Introduction

This chapter consists of the analysis of the research results. The relevance of the chapter in the case study seeks to give discussions as has been gathered from the responses provided by the participants. It provides clarity based on added value in consideration of the responses to the subject matter under investigation. Therefore in seeking clarity, an analysis of information is done based on the responses recorded in the questionnaires, interviews and general observations. After the analysis one should be able to tell the consistence at which the responses were recorded from one interviewee to the other. At the end, all this should help to shed light on development projects assessment. One special means of assessment identified is M&E, a method of assessment that provided a platform to discuss challenges faced in different institutions in its implementation. Therefore the chapter expressed the importance of assessments in development projects entailing that M&E should not be taken for granted. It helped to ensure that outcome assessments the never be underestimated as far as development is concerned. The responses by the interviewees, together with other insights will be able to determine the recommendations for action on current and future development projects. After the data analysis, recommendations will be made sustain the irrigation scheme and which can also be used to other projects alike the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project.

4.1 Farmers' reception of the irrigation project

This section consists of the quantitative results analysis which is based on the questionnaires administered to the farmers at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme. In a similar study, Chazovachii (2012) assessed the impact of small-scale irrigation scheme on rural livelihood suing panganai irrigation scheme in Bakita district of Zimbabwe as the case study. In his findings, the scholar established that even though the establishment of the Panganai small scale irrigation project was done as an endeavour to improve the welfare of the people. Nevertheless, livelihood challenges remain a pressing issue as economic and social problems continue affecting plot holders which has resulted in the scheme being undermined. In assessing the outcomes of the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme on the livelihoods of the beneficiary farmers, the information represented in the analysis is based on the responses from the irrigation project beneficial farmers. In the survey, a total number of twenty four

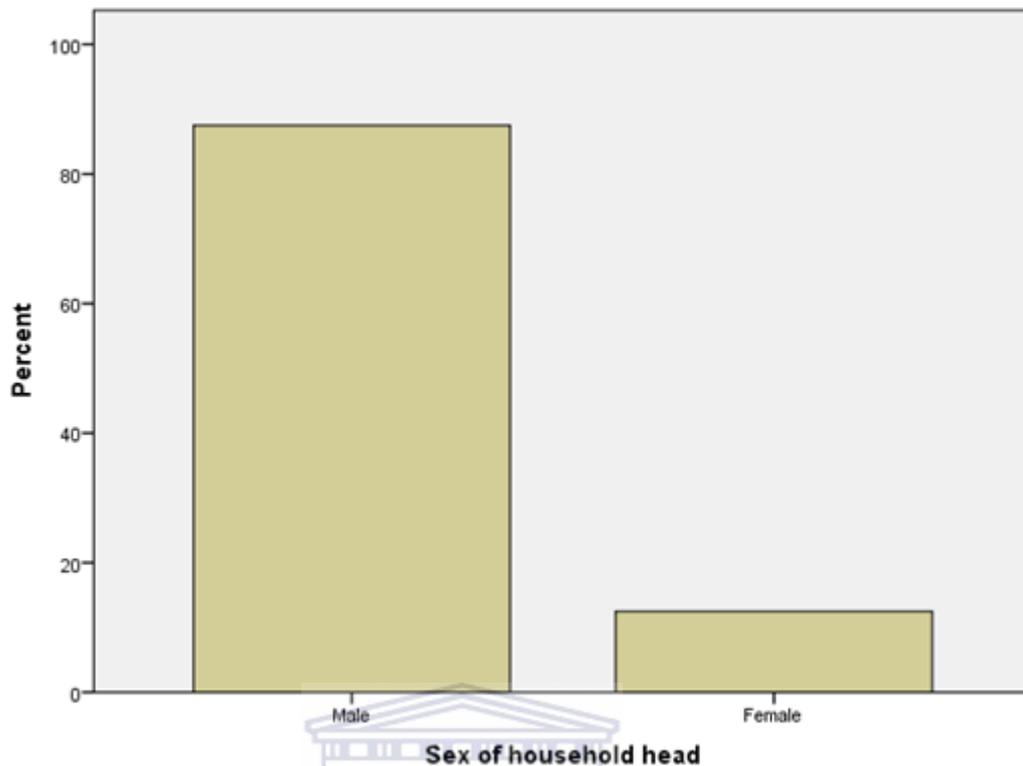
farmers out of the ninety four farmers at the irrigation scheme managed to fill in and complete the questionnaires and the feedback captured and recorded using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) as analytical software.

The number of farmers during the day of questionnaires dissemination was at 26, 7% representation of farmers at the irrigation scheme. I assume this is because other farmers were engaged in other activities aside of the irrigation as the project is now partially functioning. This concurs with my observations on the irrigation plots where there was a dire situation in which some of the plots were unattended to and remained unproductive. The observations prompted me to question the farmers as to the reason why there were some plots abandoned and a low productive activity at the irrigation. In response, most of the farmers fingered the pressing economic situation. The situation makes it difficult for the farmers who are unable to self-support their crop production. However, this analysis is mainly a descriptive analysis of the views of farmers which reflects the benefits accrue after allocated the plots at the irrigation scheme.

4.2 The Socio-demography of farmers at the irrigation

The socio-demographic percentage of beneficiary farmers clearly tells that the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project is dominated by male beneficiary farmers as compared to female farmers. This representation can be traced back to the issue of patriarchal dominance in most communities. Figure 4.1 is a gender based graph showing gender of household heads at the irrigation scheme. Research finding showed that 12, 5% of the respondents were women and 87, 5% constituted male beneficiary farmers (Figure 4.1).

Figure 4.1: Gender of household head



Source: Research findings 2015

However, despite the dominance of male headed families in the case study there are instances where both husband and wives were working together on their plots upon irrigation site visit. In the case of female-headed families, one could find women working with siblings. It is from this that it can be argued that single gender-headed household meant that either one partner had passed away or one is divorced. The issue of gender among household heads was investigated in this study because in a study by World Economic Forum a number of reasons why poverty falls faster in households headed by females were established. According to the report, while poverty decline for both household groups in most countries, it fell faster for Female Headed Households (FHHs) in comparing households with widow and non-widowed heads, married heads with and without a male adult household member and the same for non-married heads (World Economic Forum, 2015). However, a closer analysis at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme reflected that poverty is not selective in the area as both FHH and Male Headed Households (MHH) are struggling to cope up with their livelihoods.

Figure 4.2: A Farmer participating in the study



Source: Field Work 23 July 2015

The picture in Figure 4.2 shows one of the female farmers at the irrigation scheme. This picture also gives supporting evidence on the socio-demographic representation of gender particularly the fact that female constitute the number of farmers at the irrigation scheme. The farmer in the picture background, Ms Jenny Chiongotere is one of the single parent family headed household beneficiaries at the scheme.

The farmers were also questioned on how they have benefited from the allocated irrigation plots. A cross tabulation on the responses of the farmers was done using SPSS (see page 62 and 63). The farmers were asked specifically on how the project benefited them socially, economically, or both. The results show a bit of variation of the responses given by the farmer. About 58 percent of the respondents (14 farmers) highlighted that they have benefited economically. The proportion of respondents who indicated social benefits and both social and economic benefits were about 16 percent (4 farmers) and 25 percent (6 farmers), respectively (Table 4.1) per village of origin. Thus, a greater number of farmers pointed out

that they have benefited economically as compared to those who opted for social benefit. Also interesting is the fact that only a few farmers could say they have benefited socio-economically in each village. The fact that respondents could point out some form of benefits shows that the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project had impacts on the farmers' livelihoods. It is important to acknowledge the benefits no matter whether it impacted socially or economically. For example where the benefit was credited is evidence in the study whereby more numbers of the farmers indicated that they have benefited economically. In other words, this result is in line with the economic initiative of the GoZ's attempt to economically empower indigenous people. In similar assessment on the outcome of a development project on the livelihoods of farmers, a study which was carried out in 2013 and 2014 by the Zimbabwe Vulnerable Assessment Committee, It was revealed that the most common household cash income source in rural households is casual labour, followed by food crop production/sales and remittances respectively (ZimVAC, 2014:36). Looking at the information gathered in the case, the present study has come to the conclusion that it is difficult for the farmers at the scheme to cater for their livelihoods.

Table 4.1: The socio-economic benefit responses by the farmers

Village of origin * How did the project benefited you socially/economically Crosstabulation					
Count		How did the project benefited you socially/economically			Total
		Social	Economic	Socio-economic	
Village of origin	Manjoro	1	2	1	4
	Kagwambo	0	2	1	3
	Mazwimaviri	1	4	1	6
	Kanosvamhira	1	5	1	7
	Gwashure	1	1	2	4
Total		4	14	6	24

Source: Research findings 2015

Despite the inadequate impact on the livelihoods of farmers by the irrigation scheme due to the difficulties in the current economic situation, on the positive side the results also seem to confirm the importance of development projects. The irrigation scheme manage to empower local communities as most of the people who participated in the questionnaires could highlight that they have benefited by gaining access to the plots. In their response, for instance, some responded that they benefited economically since they did not have formal

employment, by acquiring the plots, they could now work on the irrigation project to produce enough to feed themselves and extra to sell for profit.

4.3 Crops produced under the irrigation

The farmers also responded to a question on the type of crops they farm under the irrigation. Crop diversification is one strategy that smallholder farmers may employ to reduce their vulnerability in the face of global environmental change (McCord et al, 2015: 738). It can ascertain that production of food crops by the farmers at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project is necessary to reduce global environment change as well as to ensure that farmers have access to enough food thereby avoiding starvation. In their responses, it was clear that they produce a variety of crops but they still displayed feeling of unsatisfactory due to other challenges hindering them to achieve their full production potential. Some of the crops produced (Table 4.2) are mainly vegetables. Production of such types of crops also has a well-being impact on the health of the farmers.



Table 4.2: Names of some types of crops produced at the irrigation

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Beans, Onions, Potatoes	1	4.2	4.2	4.2
Beans, Peas, Tomatoes	1	4.2	4.2	8.3
Beans, Vegetables	1	4.2	4.2	12.5
Cabbages, Vegetables	1	4.2	4.2	16.7
Onions, Beans, Potatoes	1	4.2	4.2	20.8
Peas, Tomatoes, Potatoes	1	4.2	4.2	25.0
Tomatoes, Cabbages	1	4.2	4.2	29.2
Tomatoes, Onions, Beans	1	4.2	4.2	33.3
Tomatoes, Potatoes, Onions	1	4.2	4.2	37.5
Tomatoes, Vegetables	2	8.3	8.3	45.8
Tomatoes, Vegetables, Onions	1	4.2	4.2	50.0
Vegetables, Beans, Cabbages	1	4.2	4.2	54.2
Vegetables, Green maize	1	4.2	4.2	58.3
Vegetables, Onions, Beans	1	4.2	4.2	62.5
Vegetables, Tomatoes	1	4.2	4.2	66.7
Vegetables, Tomatoes, Beans	1	4.2	4.2	70.8
Vegetables, Tomatoes, Onions	5	20.8	20.8	91.7
Vegetables, Cucumbers, Onions	1	4.2	4.2	95.8
Vegetables, Tomatoes, Onions	1	4.2	4.2	100.0
Total	24	100.0	100.0	

Source: Research findings 2015

Table 4.2 shows names of some of the dominant types of crops produced at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme. It is quite evident from the results shown in the table that a variety of crops like vegetables, tomatoes, onions among others are produced at the irrigation scheme. Looking at the responses given in the case study by participants who were at the site on the day of data collection, one is compelled to say that the farmers at the scheme were mainly into seasonal farming. However, this can be interpreted in the fact that challenges faced by the farmers had a limit into their ability to engage into full farming business. This led to the farmers to be viewed as if they are operating on a seasonal basis. This view was clear from the responses given by the farmers approached to complete the questionnaires. That assured of resources, capital and support, they will be ready to look forward to the project as their main source of business.

In this research, all participants were beneficiaries of plots at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme. They were drawn from the five villages namely; Manjoro, Kagwambo, Mazwimaviri, Kanosvamhira and Gwashure. Table 4.3 is a table showing percentage representation of the farmers at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme and their village of origin.

Table 4.3: Participants by Village of origin

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Manjoro	4	16.7	16.7	16.7
Kagwambo	3	12.5	12.5	29.2
Mazwimaviri	6	25.0	25.0	54.2
Kanosvamhira	7	29.2	29.2	83.3
Gwashure	4	16.7	16.7	100.0
Total	24	100.0	100.0	

Source: Research findings, 2015

In Zimbabwe residential areas are further classified into Wards headed by councillors. So, the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme is situated in Ward 9 about two kilometres from the growth point. The farmers to whom the questionnaires were given are local residents from the above mentioned villages. Some of these villages are also in ward 9. Thus, most of the farmers, if not all, who completed the questionnaires are from Ward 9. This confirms the chairman's earlier statement that the beneficiaries at the irrigation project were mainly resident in Ward 9, even though they were a few from Ward 36.

Farmers were questioned about the number of dependents they were staying with. Table 4.4 shows the responses recorded. In the findings it emerged that most of the farmers at the centre had four siblings under their care. Three of them had more than five, and a couple of them had either one or two siblings.

Table 4.4: Number of dependencies staying with a farmer

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid One	2	8.3	8.3	8.3
Two	2	8.3	8.3	16.7
Three	1	4.2	4.2	20.8
Four	16	66.7	66.7	87.5
Five+	3	12.5	12.5	100.0
Total	24	100.0	100.0	

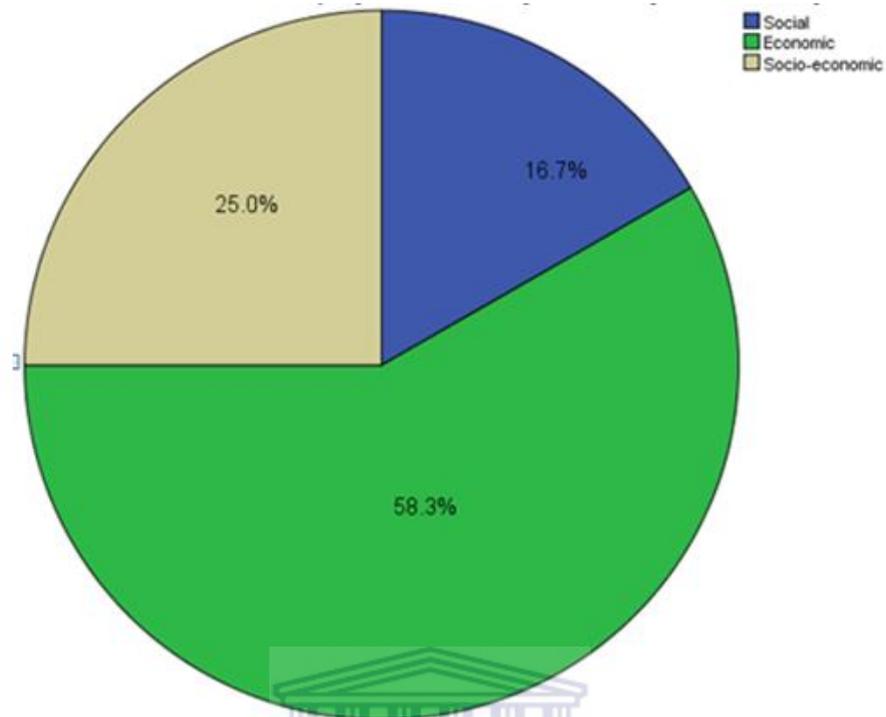
Source: Research findings, 2015

The number of dependencies that each farmer stays with has a direct influence on the livelihoods of each farmer's needs. In this case study, based on responses from the participants as well as my observation, most farmers had at least more than two dependencies. It can be argued that the more the dependents one has the bigger and diverse human resource a farmer has. This means that more labour, more production. I had a first-hand experience of this during my tour of the irrigation scheme because at one point I could see families working together in at the plot. However, the number of siblings a farmer has affects the proceedings accrued from the plot. The livelihoods needs of someone with one or two siblings cannot be equated to the needs of someone with three or more dependencies while having the same size of a plot.

4.4 Project Impacts on Livelihoods

The distribution of the irrigation plots was meant to positively better the livelihoods of the farmers in the area. In the case study, the farmers at the irrigation scheme were also inquired on how they have benefited after being allocated plots. Different responses drawn from the participants showed the farmers' diverging views. Initially, the farmers were asked on whether they had benefited socially, economically or both socio-economically.

Figure 4.3: How had the project benefitted you socially/economically



Source: Research findings, 2015

Figure 4.3 is a pie chart on percentage representation of gains by the farmers from the irrigation project. The percentage representation of the respondents is based on what the farmers perceived as their gains after being allocated the plots. It can be drawn from the pie chart that 58% of the farmers answered that they have benefited economically while 16.7% stated that they have benefited socially and 25.0% have benefited both socially and economically.

The farmers were further questioned on their specific gains after being allocated plots. This followed after their socio-economic responds to give an insight on the types of gains incurred. Here, the question was much clearer and specific as the farmers were required to give examples of such gains.

Table 1.5: How have you benefited

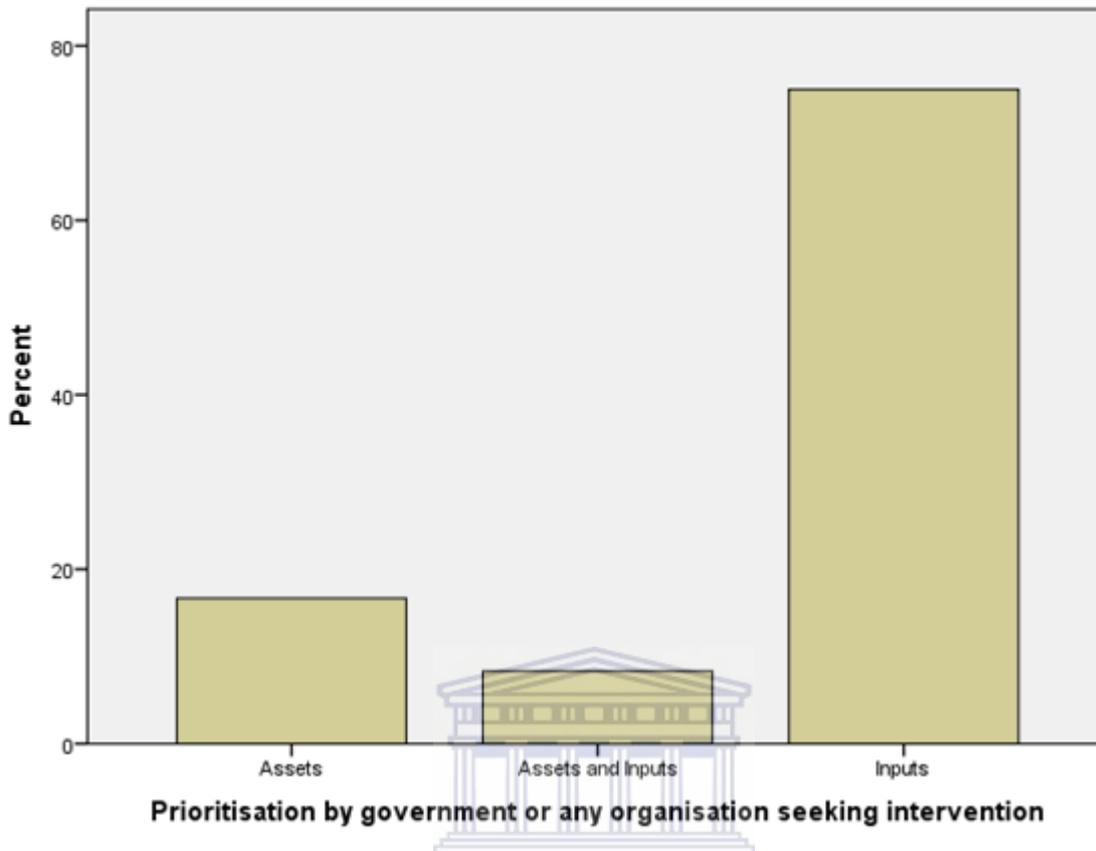
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Income and Food	1	4.2	4.2	4.2
	Income, Food and Plot	3	12.5	12.5	16.7
	Income, Food and Employment	1	4.2	4.2	20.8
	Income and Plot	2	8.3	8.3	29.2
	Income, Plot and Employment	4	16.7	16.7	45.8
	Food	1	4.2	4.2	50.0
	Food and Plot	3	12.5	12.5	62.5
	Food, Plot and Employment	6	25.0	25.0	87.5
	Food and Employment	1	4.2	4.2	91.7
	Plot and Employment	2	8.3	8.3	100.0
	Total	24	100.0	100.0	

Source: Research findings, 2015

A further detailed inquiry on the benefits of the farmers followed. Table 4.5 are research results based on the benefits of the farmers from being allocated the irrigation plot. The result is a resemblance of the information in Figure 4.3 but here in Table 4.5 is a deep down analysis of the actual benefits. The benefits help to spell the impact of the project on the livelihoods of the beneficiaries.

On the other hand, I went on to investigate on the farmers prioritize needs for them to be able to achieve full production potential. In Figure 4.4 is a graphical representation of the responses from the farmers. Basically, the farmers had to select from the given three choices namely; assets, inputs or combined assets and inputs.

Figure 4.4: Prioritisation by government or any organisation seeking intervention



Source: Research findings, 2015

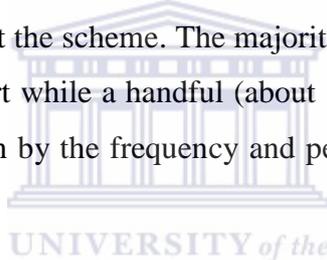
The farmers' responses in Figure 4.4 show answers after they were asked what they would like to be prioritised in case the government or non-governmental organisations seek to intervene to alleviate their situation so that they can fully utilise their plots. The responses prove that the majority of them need assistance in terms of inputs. Faring inputs would help them to grow the appropriate types of crops. Highlighting the need for farming inputs, inputs such as fertilisers and chemicals were mentioned. Apart from inputs, the farmers also expressed the need for assets. After questioning why they needed assets, the farmers highlighted that assets will enable them to successfully carry out their farming production. A handful famers highlighted that the government or any interested organisation seeking to assist them should prioritise both assets and inputs. The difference in responsenses is partly due to the varying degrees of individual farmers' concerns rather than their collective concerns.

Table 4.6: Prioritisation by government or any organisation seeking intervention

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Assets	4	16.7	16.7	16.7
Assets and Inputs	2	8.3	8.3	25.0
Inputs	18	75.0	75.0	100.0
Total	24	100.0	100.0	

Source: Research findings, 2015

Table 4.6 presents identified sectors/areas of support needed by the farmers. These areas are those that needed focus in case of any intervention by interested partners be it the government or any organisation. Areas that dominated farmers' responses on what they need most have been highlighted in Table 4.6. Most of the respondents spoke of lack of support as a challenge to their success at the irrigation scheme to carryout full production. Thus, on another question I asked them on what the government or any interested organisation should prioritise to enhance production at the scheme. The majority (about 75 percent) were quick to point at the need for input support while a handful (about 16.7 percent) highlighted the need for asset support as can be shown by the frequency and percentage of respondents on Table 4.6.



4.5 Perceptions of development practitioners on challenges in keeping track of development projects

Keeping track in development projects helps to ascertain progress report on the state of a project. A number of officials working with different organisations with interest in peoples' livelihoods in societies were consulted. It can be argued that the interviewees were drawn from a pool of development practitioners working with different organisations in Zimbabwe. I carried out a qualitative analysis based on their perceptions. The answers acquired are vital as much as development projects are concerned as these officials responded on a first-hand experience. The comments made by the officials really had a direct link and were not far apart from those challenges the farmers highlighted. In my opinion is the fact that while the responses from the farmers and organisation officials seemed different, what I can say is that they had a common contributing effect. Moreover, if one can track down, both conversations had conjugal agreement at the end. This is because one challenge could lead to the other and vice versa. The difference in responses as recorded at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project site is mainly because only a few seem to conform that the lack of the irrigation realising its

full potential was in the lack of support from the government or any other organisation because of political fear. The same point was raised by the officials who responded that not all community development projects are a success since quite a large percentage never reaches their objectives. Dominant in their responses, the officials also pointed out lack of understanding and support as the major factors. However, this does not rule out other contributing factors. Existence and possibility of different reasons as contributing factors to failures in development projects were also acknowledged in Swanepoel & De Beer (2012:45) who stated that, “Many reasons can be given for the failure of projects, but these reasons should be sought at the running of projects, not at characteristics of community development.” In this regard, I had a privilege to carry out interviews with experienced professionals working for development agencies to inquire on their perceptions on development projects at least from those with first-hand experience in the field. In these interviews, I seek to inquire the role of monitoring and evaluation as an important aspect of project cycle management. This information is helpful in enlightening on the institutional challenges facing development projects/programmes as experienced by those interviewed in this study, who are working in development agencies and other NGOs in Zimbabwe.

4.5.1 Institutional challenges of assessments in development projects

In order to give some concrete ideas on the importance of assessments in development projects, I conducted interviews on monitoring and evaluation. Participants in the interview sessions have been drawn from experienced people currently working in various NGOs, humanitarian organisations and other development agencies in Zimbabwe. These participants include monitoring and evaluation officers, programmes officers, development professionals among other people of various strategic positions in their organisations. The participants were asked a series of questions related to monitoring and evaluation. Their input gathered is used to reflect on the need to prioritise monitoring and evaluation systems in departments, organisations and governments. The participants have raised key issues that I feel are of utmost importance for development projects. Interviews have been conducted as a follow-up on similar challenges or lack of thereof, affecting the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme as a development project. Even though the findings are based on a government owned project, input from experienced personnel can help to shed light on the role of monitoring and evaluation, which has been seldom taken seriously by top managements.

The interviews were designed into five sections which were all related to monitoring and evaluation. The first section tested participants’ knowledge of the C/FFA programme and

required them to give their names, organisations and positions in their organisation. Since the C/FFA programme has been done by WFP in partnership with various NGOs, and for the fact that I did not have access to the full information of all the fifteen local organisations they working with. Section A serves to test knowledge of the interviewed officials to the conceptual programme. The inquiry into the officials' knowledge of the programme was done to help provide a clear insight to support my decision to use the C/FFA programme as a concept in conducting this research. In their responses after I asked them if they knew about the C/FFA programme, most of the interviewed officials expressed an awareness of the project, but some of them were quick to state that they were not part of the programme. For example, one of the interviewee Mrs Priscilla Dembetembe, the Markets and Livelihoods Advisor at GOAL Zimbabwe revealed that their organisation used to be partner to WFP, but the partnership had ended and therefore she doesn't know of the actual programme in question. The same sentiments are echoed by the other interviewees. Even though some admit knowing the programme, they are quick to dismiss any linkages to the programme. This is evidenced by Mr Davison Muchadenyika, a professional development practitioner and Mr Shastry Njeru of the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum who both dismissed being part of the programme but acknowledged to knowing about it. An exception is the M&E officer at CARE Zimbabwe who admits that his organisation is partner to WFP for the programme but also states that unfortunately he had never worked on the project in question.

The participants were asked about their understanding of monitoring and evaluation and whether M&E was good for organisations themselves or the communities concerned. Although different responses have come up, almost all of the interviewees suggest that they do have M&E in their organisations. What emerged as different was the way of implementing the system. Stating his understanding of M&E, development practitioner, Mr Muchadenyika says, "Monitoring & Evaluation is a tool and a process that assists on the planning of development projects, and on a second note, it also assists in tracking progress so that we can see whether we are achieving our objects, our milestones that we have set." Priscilla Dembetembe has expressed that as far as she understands M&E, at GOAL Zimbabwe, they call it MEAL acronym of Monitoring and Evaluation Accountability and Learning and pointed that, "we place a lot of emphasis on Monitoring and Evaluation in terms of the different stages that a particular project goes through right from project development to project implementation to project end that is it." It is clear from this statement that GOAL Zimbabwe is one of the organisations which takes M&E as important and seems to be on the

right track as far as implementation of development projects is concerned. Mr Njeru echoes, “Monitoring & Evaluation are considered and some may consider it tools in development that without M&E, you do not really do results but in fact your decisions are based on opinions rather than on evidence.”

On whether M&E is good for the organisations or the communities concerned, the interviewees also gave different responses. The M&E officer at CARE Zimbabwe is quick to the point by stating that, “M&E is good for both. For the community it’s good in the sense that if we do monitoring evaluation we are able to develop projects that really address the felt needs of that particular community and for the organisation, you can use information from your evaluations to fundraise.” He gives this view on the perspective that, the whole M&E subject is so big that he can talk for the whole day. Priscilla Dembetembe has argued that M&E is good for the communities based on the type of agro-based projects by their organisation. Mr Muchadenyika complements the fact that M&E is important to both the organisation and communities, by stating, “The system is also a vital tool in attracting additional funding to the project since without an evaluation you cannot really justify the need for additional resources.” Basically, from all the responses, it can be asserted that M&E is crucial in development context. Its importance was expressed by the interviewees, hence most of them making it a vital system for both communities and organisations in effectively implementing their projects.

4.5.2 Organisation officials’ participation

The previous chapter has established that M&E concept is a fairly new field in most organisations and developing countries including in Zimbabwe. This has led to many officials to undermine it while others seem to have remained divided on whether organisation officials should implement it or have one of their officials taking full responsibility of it. In investigating on the participation of organisation officials in the monitoring and evaluation process, the questions asked to the interviewees sought to ascertain if officials’ concerns are taken into account. Responding to this, the CARE Zimbabwe M&E officer highlights the involvement of organisation officials before the organisation gets funds. He says, “We develop a proposal and in that proposal we have a logical framework that outlines what is to be done and how it’s going to be monitored. So in a way, all the organisation officials are involved in the crafting of the proposal and the implementation as well as in getting the feedback from the people that are doing the actual work on the ground.” Even though there seems to be no clear answer on CARE Zimbabwe involving organisation officials in the

process, GOAL Zimbabwe's Priscilla Dembetembe clearly states that the organisation officials take part in the M&E process. She says, "We have the learning component where we talk about it. In our M&E framework, in our tools and even in our indicator tracking table which is an interacting platform that we have, everything is very much participatory process. In that platform, if a colleague has something new, for example, a new idea we will look at it and if useful it will then be incorporated into the system and the MEAL manager runs it with the other M&E programme." A closer analysis shows that for a development project to be successful, and have a good track of the progress, an organisation must be able to draft an open M&E system for every official and be able to take the concerns of the officials if applicable and suitable.

Section C of the interviews consists of questions that seek responses on the constraints and potential of development projects, but specifically of relevance here, is monitoring and evaluation. Participants were asked on how M&E for the projects assists target groups and to identify the main obstacles that are/impede optimal successfulness of M&E in achieving intended goals. Priscilla Dembetembe says, "M&E helps targeted groups to understand where they are in terms of where they have started off when we were with them in the first line and through the project implementation and hopefully there should be a positive change in their lives as a result of the project. So, M&E really helps them to understand how far they have come" CARE Zimbabwe M&E officer also spoke about the importance of the vulnerable people participating in development projects or programmes as key to improving their livelihoods. The official said this with a specific reference to the C/FFA programme, when he stated that, "I think particularly this concept of food for asset is important because for example when the targeted people are urged to take part to construct a dam, this is good because this is an asset that they can utilise. For example, they will use the dam to farm which will actually prevent future food insecurity cases whereby they will be able to use the asset to grow food on a continuous basis with the availability of water supply from the dam."

4.5.3 Obstacles that impede optimal successfulness of M&E

The participants have been asked questions pertaining to obstacles to the successfulness of M&E implementation in development projects. A number of challenges have been noted. Mr Njeru identifies the challenge as rooted in the institutionalisation of the system in an organisation, government or department. He found the major challenge being that M&E as a concept got a bad reputation because it was used or people associate it with a tool that is used for witch-hunting at work place. Another opinion he identified associated with the concept

are people's views which he said that he often heard people saying that if you are very honest with M&E, your weaknesses will be discovered and you will be relieved of your duties at work. However, apart from the bad reputation of the concept from individuals, the interviewees identified obstacles in carrying out M&E assessment. It is my understanding that M&E departments are underpaid. This has a limiting effect to the department to fully conduct tracking of projects and carrying out full assessments. This view was evidenced as Priscilla Dembetembe and other interviewees alike, associated obstacles that impede successfulness of implementing the system with the inadequacy allocation of resources for M&E by organisations, departments or government.

4.5.4 Conducting M&E

Interviewees were asked for more information related to monitoring and evaluation. The questions included how often the officials conduct monitoring and evaluation. Most answers in this regard have been consistent among the interviewees. In his response to this question, Mr Muchadenyika says that M&E should be conducted in three phases. First, the baseline study which is meant to identify existing conditions. Second, is the mid-term evaluations or mid-term reviews which are done halfway through the project. Thirdly, the end of program evaluation which can be conducted three or four years after the programme has closed, which is meant for impact evaluation. Just like other interviewees, Mr Muchadenyika clarifies that monitoring is an on-going process which we cannot say how often we do it because it is something that is on-going. Priscilla Dembetembe and the other interviewees share the same sentiments regarding M&E. The CARE Zimbabwe official, who in trying to clarify the periodic timeframe for conducting M&E goes on to state that, "In terms of evaluation we have the base-line which is meant to establish the benchmarks." For example, breakdowns such as what the community was like before a development project was implemented. This helps to determine the stage at which the impact of the intervention has effected a change. He then mentioned the mid-line evaluation, which he said it helps to figure out if we are still in the right track to achieve our assumptions. It also entail if the organisation is likely to meet its objective. Finally he mentioned about an evaluation at the end of the project. The final evaluation helps to determine whether the project had achieved its objective. It is a final assessment of the whole project. All in all, CARE Zimbabwe official said that there are evaluation phases throughout the life of a project. However, he admitted that that despite evaluation being in three phases, monitoring is continuous process that organisations do from the start until to the end of a project."

4.6 Conclusion

This chapter highlighted the importance of doing projects assessment. Special attention was vented to M&E which I identified as a means of assessment critical in development projects. More information on its importance was generated from participants as can be reflected in their everyday work experience. The consistence and similarities in the interviewees' responses were interesting. It helped to shed light on some of the challenges faced in doing assessments, let alone challenges faced by M&E offices and departments in different organisations. Overall, I learnt that outcomes assessment plays an important role in development projects and it should not be taken for granted and its role also should not be underestimated. This finding leads to the concluding chapter of this paper which focusses on the implications of the research findings and gives recommendations to organisations in as much as development is concerned.



CHAPTER FIVE

Conclusion and Recommendations Based on the Outcome Assessment of the Dotito-Muchenje Irrigation Project.

This chapter sums up the major conclusions of this thesis. It also provides conclusion and recommendations to the study. A final summation of the study is given first highlighting lessons learnt, findings made and recommendations advanced based on aspects identified in this study. Recommendations are given because they are crucial in providing useful information for future researches and case references for potential future development agencies that may need to engage the case study area and country at large. The recommendations are based on the findings of the case study, and are intended to help address issues around current and future development projects in various community settings as can be learnt from the foregoing Dotito-Muchenje irrigation case study.

The study attempted to provide a fair assessment of the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project. It has helped to ascertain outcomes of the project as a developmental initiative on the livelihoods of beneficiary farmers at the scheme. The C/FFA programme has been used as a concept and a foundational point of departure for the study. In assessing the impact of the project on the livelihoods of the beneficiary farmers, monitoring and evaluation was reviewed to help ascertain the importance of assessments in development projects. The study shows that the launch of the irrigation project has been viewed by many as a way to make positive impact in the livelihoods of the beneficiary farmers. However, due to some constraining circumstances, it was revealed that the overall goals of the project were not fully realised. Therefore, I had suggested recommendations that would be helpful to take note of for successfulness in development projects.

5. Recommendations

The study found that there is a need for a closer tracking of developments at the irrigation. The finding points to the lack of monitoring of the needs of the farmers. Therefore this study can establish that inadequate monitoring is partly to blame for the unproductive farming at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme. Lack of keeping track with events can be evidenced by the state of some of the agricultural activities at the irrigation scheme which is quiet operating at a low rate. According to some first-hand information as has been told by the farmers during the study, they claim to have been operating lowly for the past few years. In this case, one is obliged to say that lack of making follow-up in most development projects

has undermined the importance of agriculture in rural areas resulting in the prevalent of poverty in such areas. The government of Zimbabwe's lack of follow-up on the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation has made sure that the project remained operating below its capacity. In 2004, MLSS stated that, "partly because of the low income generating potential of agriculture, poverty is much more prevalent in the rural areas of Zimbabwe than in the urban areas," reported Zeleka and Turigari (2011). So lack of monitoring made the irrigation to remain a low income generating project. This simply points to the absence of support to the farmers at the scheme by institutions like the government.

5.1 Government involvement in irrigation schemes

The GoZ concentrates on irrigation projects for several reasons. First of all, it is important to note that the government is the major owner of land of land in Zimbabwe. However, even though some of the irrigations are farmer managed, the government need to take initiatives that would boost irrigation schemes in the country. This would be a huge step in the right direction for the sector as there are issues that the government ought to initiate which would benefit the irrigation schemes in the country. Initiatives may come in different perspectives like provision or subsidization of inputs to the irrigation farmers. The inputs the government can offer may include seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides among other inputs required for a successful agricultural production. Unavailability of such initiatives to the irrigation farmers highlight gaps in policy interventions in the agricultural sector in general. Lack of such initiatives has also been evidenced at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project in particular. Such initiatives are enigmatically important that they would boost developmental projects in the country nevertheless each project has its own challenges peculiar to it. Despite project specific challenges, it is vital to note that there are other challenges that are more of a blanket and are applicable to all irrigation schemes.

Apart from all these problems and other challenges being faced by the farmers at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project, it is critical for one to note that Government intervention is essential for the success of such irrigation projects, yielding high production and wage rates.. According to FAO (2000) report, high incomes above the annual minimum wage of Z\$ 16 800 paid to an unskilled worker in the Zimbabwean industry have been reported in other irrigation schemes in the country. For example, irrigation schemes such as Chitora, Murara, Mzinyathini and Wenimbi were reported to have provided higher incomes as can compared to other schemes. In noting this, it has become clear for one to understand the challenges

being faced by farmers at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme. This case study has also scrutinized most of these challenges, therefore one would be obliged to say that no matter how independent they might be, developmental projects needs government support in order to be successful.

The lack of support of farmers from responsible institutions leaves farmers to operate on constrained budgets. They struggle to get inputs, thereby making crop production difficult for them. However, most development projects characteristically require well detailed budgets to be directed towards projects. For instance, the WFP has a well accustomed budgetary allocation directed towards its financial year programmes within a given country or project. In line with the above, in 2012 the WFP issued its protracted relief and recovery operations to Zimbabwe under the scope of responding to humanitarian needs and strengthening resilience to food insecurity (WFP Executive Board report, 2013). One can note that the organisation had a clear plan of the project as can be seen in Table 5.1. In the case of the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme, if the government had adopted the same approach, the project would have been different from what I have witnessed on the ground.

Table 5.1: Protracted Relief & Recovery operations plan in Zimbabwe

Number of beneficiaries	1,230,000 (yearly maximum)
Duration of project	24 months (May 2013–April 2015)
WFP food tonnage	144,021 mt
Cost (United States dollars)	
WFP food cost	71,282,052
WFP cash/voucher cost	31,540,000
Total cost to WFP	206,091,593

Source: WFP Executive Board report, 2013

Table 5.1 shows the projected WFP executive board report of a calculated budget of what it will cost the organisation to carryout protracted relief and recovery in Zimbabwe. The budget was meant to cover a period of twenty-four months, stretching from May 2013 to April 2015. The failure to draft a budget and to map a clear plan for the operation of the Dotito-Muchenje

irrigation scheme can also be traced back to the much publicised political climate in the country which could be said to have challenged farming operations as well. Basing on the research findings of this study, a well-planned budget drafted for a development project and complete independence from political alliances are important recommendations.

5.2 Determinant factors for successful or unsuccessful of projects

On the other hand different institutional arrangements and policy interventions could undermine the success of a project. These factors are worth are worth considering because they had managed to lead other irrigation schemes to be successful than the others. According to a study done by FAO (2000) on ten irrigation schemes in Zimbabwe, it was established that some schemes had more impact than others and generally farmer managed schemes have more positive impacts than government managed schemes. This same effect is also a major production challenge at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project. The above statement helps to stress differences that exist between farmer managed and government managed schemes. Other challenges like water supply, transport, assets ownership, management, planning, operation and maintenance also stood out at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project as in other irrigation schemes per the FAO (2000) study. Therefore, it is in the interest of this study to suggest that where it lacked, the government become more involved to support farmers that they improve utilization of the irrigation schemes.

Farming mechanisms need to be boosted at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme. Technology or simple agricultural mechanisation has brought great productivity for many farmers in similar projects in other countries. Even though he also implicates mechanisation as the main trigger for a call for ecological justice and respect for nature, Bapat (2005:13) admits, “Human activities resulting from modern industrial and infrastructure growth are seen as being essential for bringing about rapid economic growth and social justice.” It is within this economic growth and social justice that farmers in the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project can be able to take advantage and grow their business and productivity.

5.2.1 Livelihoods diversification

There should be a diversification of livelihood activities in rural areas. Ellis (2000) postulated that for survival strategy of rural households in developing countries, farming on its own does not provide a sufficient means of survival in rural areas. This leaves room for other development projects to coherently synergise with farming.

Figure 5.2.1: A diversified rural livelihood (A)

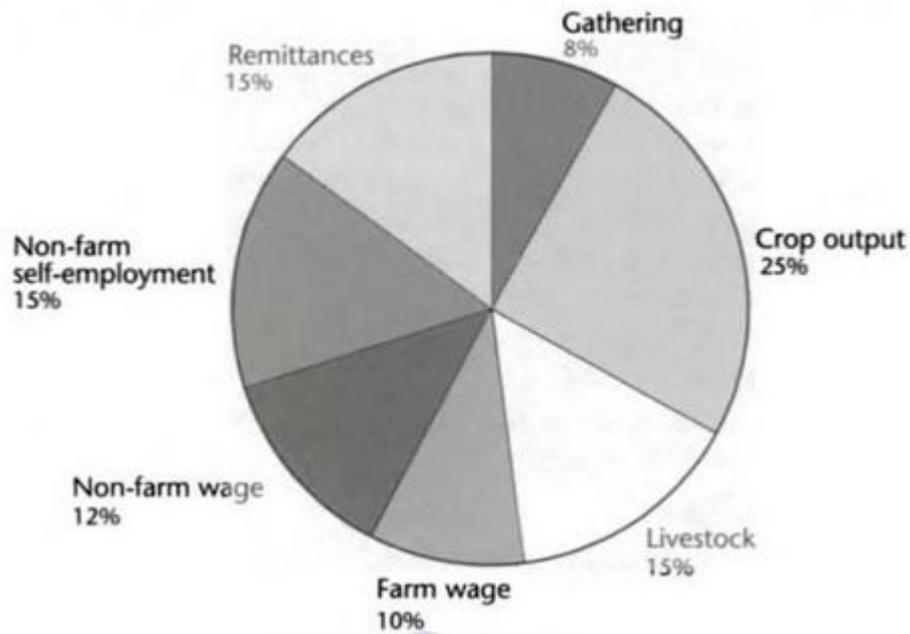
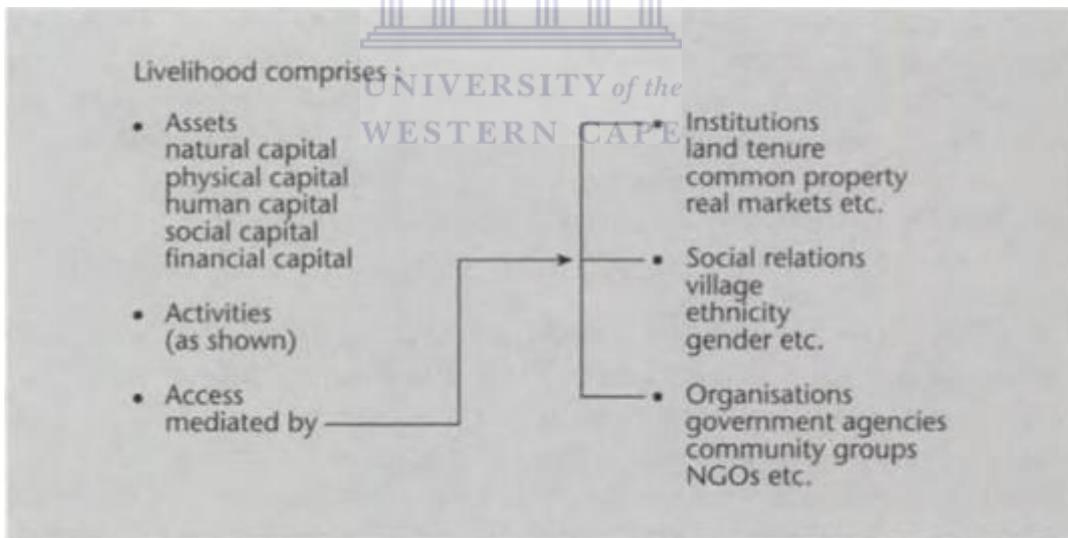


Figure 5.2.1: A diversified rural livelihood (B)



Source: Ellis, 2000

Figure 5.2.1 (A) and (B) shows a typical rural livelihood diversification. It is in this sense that for better livelihoods, farmers at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme should diversify their activities for livelihoods sustainability. For instance, in times of difficulty, the farmers should focus on other activities such as livestock production. It can be recommended that these other activities should be able to link and speak together with the irrigation project.

5.2 Concluding Remarks

This thesis covered several aspects of irrigation farming. The concluding remarks focus on the challenges faced by farmers.

5.3 Remarks on farming implements

The first major contributing challenge identified in the study is the need to boost farming implements. It has been discussed that the farmers need farming implements such as farming inputs like seeds, fertilisers, assets like fence, farm-mechanisation and dripping pipes for watering among others. In this case one can say the challenges are cancerous from one project to the other, as the same problems at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme were present in other projects that were studied.

5.4 Remarks on policy intervention

The second remark is based on the need for good specific and consistent policy intervention for irrigation schemes which should be initiated. These policies ought to be policies that would help and incentivize farmers. For instance in order to promote full production on irrigation schemes, government should prioritize service provision for the schemes e.g. maintenance of electricity, assets, dripping pipes etc. According to FAO (2000), government managed schemes, Ngezi Mamina, Mambanjeni and Rozva, often experience electricity cuts because of failure by government to pay the electricity bills in time. This problem also applied to the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation scheme.

5.5 Remarks on institutional arrangements

The third remark focusses on determinant factors affecting developmental projects. Determinant factors such as institutional and policy interventions can be defying factors for successful and unsuccessfulness of a project. For instance institutional factors such as project management and committee set-ups need to be at par with the ongoing project on the ground. In the case study of the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation schemes, farmers are heavily affected by political influence. For instance, a particular farmer narrated how a change in the Member of Parliament representing the region had impacted negatively on the project of recent.

5.6 Remarks on spheres of influence

The fourth and last remark is on the need to combat overly political influence in development projects in order to establish a clear cut of developmental projects from social ills and political spheres of influences. This means the separation of projects related issues from negative social ills and political interferences. In this regard, FAO (2000) gave an example of

how a conflict between two kraal heads impacted negatively on the performance of the Rozva irrigation scheme.



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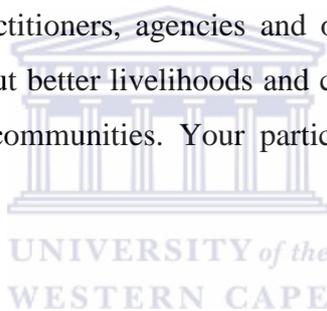
ANNEXURES

Annex I: Questionnaire Guide

Questionnaire for household plots beneficiary respondents at the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project in Mount Darwin district

Research Topic: An outcome assessment of a developmental project: a case study of the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project in Mount Darwin district in Mashonaland Central Province, Zimbabwe.

My name is Edmore Mlotshwa and I am a Masters student at the University of Western Cape in South Africa. I am conducting a study assessing the outcomes of development projects. I am inviting you to participate in my study to fill in this questionnaire. All information collected in this questionnaire is anonymous and confidential. The information that you provide will be used solely for research purposes and it is envisaged that the results will assist policy makers, development practitioners, agencies and other interested stakeholders with information that might bring about better livelihoods and community development in Mount Darwin District and any other communities. Your participation and input will be highly appreciated.



SECTION (A)

Personal and demographic information (Please tick the appropriately)

1. Age of respondent

Under 20years (1) 21-64years (2) 65+years (3)

2. Marital status

Married (1) Widowed (2) Divorced (3) Single (4) Other (5)

3. Sex of household head

1. Male (1) Female (2)

4. Who is the breadwinner?

Father (1) Son (2) Daughter (3) Mother (4) Other (5)

5. How many dependents are you staying with?

1. None (1) One (2) Two (3) Three (4) Four(5) Five+ (6)

6. Which village do you fall under?

(1)Manjoro (2)Kagwambo (3)Mazwimaviri (4)Kanosvamhira (5)Kanosvamhira (6)Gwashure

7. Please indicate the highest level of education attained.

No formal education (1) 1.O-level (2) 2.A- level (3) 3.Tertiary level (4)

8. Are you formally employed?

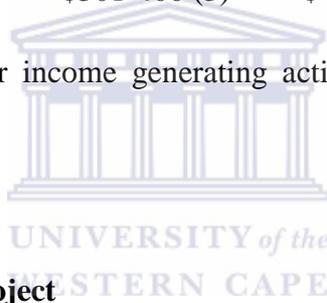
Yes (1) No (2)

9. What is your total household monthly income?

-\$101-200 (1) \$201-300 (2) \$301-400 (3) \$401-500 (4) \$501+ (5)

10. Do you engage in any other income generating activities apart from farming on the irrigation?

No (1) Yes (2)



SECTION B: The irrigation project

11. Do you know any irrigation project in the area?

Yes (1) No (2)

12. If yes? Please state the name of the project

(1) Dotito-Muchenje (2) Other projects

13. Do you know any activity towards community development as part of the project?

Yes (1) No (2)

14. Do you know any agriculture activity as part of the project?

Yes (1) No (2)

SECTION C: Socio-economic impact

15. If you know any agricultural activity at the irrigation, please name any three crops you are farming at the irrigation project

(1) Vegetables (2) Onions (3) Tomatoes (4) Beans (5) Potatoes (6) Green maize (7) Cabbages (8) Peas

16. How do you rate the level of importance of the project in the community?

Very important (1) Important (2) Somewhat important (3) Not important (4)

17. Are there any notable positive changes in your livelihoods ever since the project was initiated?

Yes (1) No (2)

18. If yes, how do you rate the change?

Very important (1) Important (2) Somehow (3) Not important (4)

19. Have you personally benefited from the organisation?

Yes (1) No (2)

20. If yes, please select one of the below

Income (1) Food (2) Plot (3) Employment (4) Market (5)

21. Indicate your level of satisfaction by the irrigation project towards livelihoods.

Very satisfied (1) Fairly satisfied (2) Somewhat satisfied (3) Not at all satisfied (4)

22. What do you think made you a beneficiary?

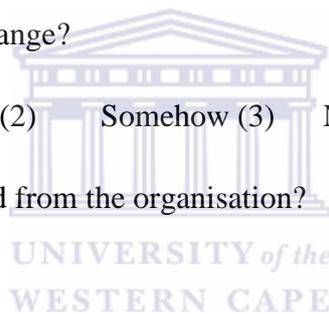
Local resident (1) I know someone who was allocating the plots (2)

23. How has the irrigation project benefitted your livelihood, select any of the following?

Social (1) Economic (2) Socio-economic (3)

24. Do you think this kind of a project is important towards community development?

Yes (1) No (2)



SECTION D: Challenges at the irrigation

25. What should the government or any interested development agencies prioritize towards the project?

Cash (1) Loan (2) Asset (3) Inputs (4) Other (5)

26. If other, please specify selecting any of the following

Money (1) Fertilisers (2) Seeds (3) Others (4)

27. What should the government or any other organisations concerned engage on as an effort to improve food security in the district through the irrigation?

Training (1) Increase farming expertise (2) Other (3)

28. What are your other suggestions for a more effective functioning of the irrigation project/programme towards community development?

Electricity (1) Fence (2) Irrigation equipment (3)

Thank you for your participation.

The End



Annex II

Interview questions for development practitioners/organisation officials

Research Topic: *An outcome assessment of a developmental project: A case study of the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project in Mount Darwin district, Mashonaland Central Province: Zimbabwe.*

My name is Edmore Mlotshwa and I am a Masters student at the University of Western Cape in South Africa. I am conducting a study investigating on the outcome assessment of developmental projects. I am inviting you to take part in the interview. All information collected in this interview is anonymous and confidential. The information that you provide will be used solely for research purposes and it is envisaged that the results will assist policy makers, development practitioners and other interested stakeholders with information that might bring about better livelihoods and community development. Your participation and input will be highly appreciated.

❖ Name, Organisation, Position held

A. Basic knowledge on M&E

1. How do you as officials understand M&E in development projects?
2. Do you think M&E is good for the communities concerned or organisation? Please elaborate?

B. Organisational officials participation in M&E process

1. Do the organisation officials fully participate in M&E concerning organisation projects?
2. If yes, do the organisation officials freely articulate their concerns during M&E? If yes, are their concerns taken into account in planning processes?
3. How do you ensure that officials, are kept updated for the programme, do they have access to information regarding the project that will be running?

C. Constraints and challenges in implementing the process

4. Do you think vulnerable people participation in development projects/programmes helps in improving livelihoods?
5. In what way does M&E for these projects assist targeted groups?
6. What are the main obstacles that are/impede optimal successfulness of M&E in achieving intended goals?

D. Additional information on M&E

7. How often do you monitor and evaluate the programme?
8. Does the community, take part in monitoring and evaluation exercises of the project?
9. What is the purpose of monitoring and evaluation exercises?
10. Any recommendations or suggestions on the roles of M&E in development projects?

Thank you for your participation



Annex III

Interview questions for the Irrigation project Chairman

Research Topic: *An outcome assessment of a developmental project: A case study of the Dotito-Muchenje irrigation project in Mount Darwin district, Mashonaland Central Province: Zimbabwe.*

My name is Edmore Mlotshwa and I am a Masters student at the University of Western Cape in South Africa. I am conducting a study investigating on the outcome assessment of developmental projects. I am inviting you to this interview to answer on few questions. All information collected in this interview is anonymous and confidential. The information that you provide will be used solely for research purposes and it is envisaged that the results will assist policy makers, development practitioners and other interested stakeholders with information that might bring about better livelihoods and community development. Your participation and input will be highly appreciated.

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1. How many farmers at the irrigation project?
 2. How many villages or wards?
 3. What kind of help would you commission or recommend for the irrigation project?
 4. How do you get and administer water supply for the project?
 5. How is the irrigation project run in terms of structured administration, do you have a committee?
 6. What are the challenges do you face at the irrigation?
 7. What are your recommendations to get the irrigation to achieve maximum production?
 8. How do you allocate plots e.g. in case someone became inactive or passed away?

Appendix IV

Challenges faced during data collection

1. My journey from Cape to Harare

Given the limited resources at my disposal, before embarking on field work, I pondered thoughtfully on how I was going to cope with field work expenses. Initially, together with my supervisor, we had tried to source for research grants from relevant offices but it had proved futile. After trying unsuccessfully to get funding, I resolved to leave for data collection after gathering momentum and courage in the spirit that I should do this in the best interest of research and academic purposes. Therefore, I left Cape Town in the morning of the 1st of July 2015 aboard a Mango Flight scheduled for the six o'clock departure. It took approximately two hours plus additional minutes to land at the OR Tambo international airport. There was a slight delay in landing at the airport due to the heavy fog which had saturated the airport and the surrounding areas posing a risk for safe landing for planes. After a while, we landed safely then I waited for the next flight connection to Harare, Zimbabwe. I had to endure six hours, waiting for the next flight to Harare. I left OR Tambo international airport and arrived in Harare at exactly quarter to six (17:45). Due to the long immigration processes, I had to leave Harare airport at dusk to take a local taxi to connect to the rank where I had to get a bus to my home. It was a long day for me and I got home after ten (22:00). The ordeal of travelling at night especially without adequate financial back-up with no convenient transportation it's something I need to forget and would not want anyone to remind me again. It is a lesson to me and anyone else who wish to conduct a study like this to have fully financial coverage of expenses. Furthermore, this also helps to stress the challenges faced in the country, which is not only unique to the farmers under investigation but extend also to the greater part population in general.

2. Activities after arrival

On the 2nd of July 2015, my second day, I left my place of local residence in Zimbabwe for Harare the capital city where most organisations' offices are based. It is important to bear in mind that it is a considerable distance to connect from the case study area which is outside the capital city, Harare. On this day, my efforts to try to connect with the WFP Zimbabwe personnel proved fruitless. Still tired from the previous day's long journey, I was forced to return home without anything concrete. On the third day, which was Friday, I decided to take

a rest. This was vital for me so as to shake-off all the fatigue of the previous days of travelling.

The next activity on my schedule was on the 6th of July after a well-deserved weekend break. I woke-up early morning for Harare and upon my arrival I headed straight to the WFP Zimbabwe offices. On my arrival, I learnt that the person whom I had been in constant contact with all along and who knew about the research project had been changed to a different work station. This news was heart-breaking for me. Honestly, this made a huge challenge to my data collection. This is when the whole business of using a humanitarian or any other NGO was turned into a total nightmare. After some concerted efforts to see the assistant or the person who had replaced him, it became clear to me that most organisations in Zimbabwe are so protective of information.

Getting cleared

I approached the District Administrator (DA) of the Mount Darwin district and provided a statement of intent. The DA requested a supporting letter from the institution of study supporting the need for a research and I provided one. I then got an authorising letter from the district, which made it easier for me to approach other relevant authorities. After obtaining the letter from the DA, I was referred to the Agritex office where I had to meet the Agritex head. I had to seek authorisation from the Agritex as it is an organ of the government which oversees agrarian issues in the country. The district Agritex office made contact with their Agritex officers operating in Dotito so as to expect me. It is from this moment that the whole research went smooth. Upon arrival in Dotito, I was welcomed by two Agritex officials who later introduced me to the irrigation scheme chairperson and the farmers.

Limitation of the study

The greatest limitation of the study relates to financial constraints as I used own limited funds. Another limitation of the study was to do with translation of information to and from, English and Shona. This is because during the visit at the irrigation scheme, most if not all farmers approached at the irrigations scheme are predominantly Shona speaking. Therefore, I feared that the translation process may have resulted in misinterpretation and loss of meaning. Another limitation in the study was the unforeseen events like time-frame in terms of commuting to and from the irrigation scheme.