

Integrated Rural and Regional Development

The Integrated Rural and Regional Development (IRRDR) research programme has developed a strong sense of identity.

Demands and developments, both internal and external, have combined to give the research programme's skills composition and research projects a strong dual rural and southern African regional flavour, with poverty reduction as a unifying theme. The business plan for the year ahead retains and builds on these emphases with the firm understanding that they directly address key national, regional and Africa-wide research priorities. There has also been project-level collaboration with almost every other research programme in the HSRC. In the pursuit of funding, there have been burgeoning relationships with government and major international funding agencies.

To reflect this profile, four distinct, but interlocking sub-programmes have been defined:

- Agrarian Reform investigates land tenure, land use, land redistribution/ restitution, agricultural input/output market reform, farm labour, etc.
- Rural Non-farm Development investigates rural livelihoods, rural service delivery, rural micro-enterprise support, eco-tourism, environmental issues, etc.
- Regional Resource Flows investigates regional integration and human resource/trade/finance flows within and across borders in southern Africa.
- Southern African Regional Poverty Network (SARPAN) is a process-focused real and virtual platform for debate on poverty reduction policy, strategy and practice in the region, stimulating interaction between policy makers, civil society and the research community.

Since its inception, with the reallocation of staff from the previously constituted research groups in August 2001, the complement of researchers has grown from nine to 17, of whom five have PhDs.

Current and recently completed projects

Joint ventures between farmers and farm workers in South Africa: Undertaken in collaboration with the Surplus Peoples project and in consultation with the Department of Land Affairs, the project is designed to document and evaluate the wide and growing range of joint ventures involving farmers and their employees in South African agriculture. Initiatives of this nature are now recognised as an important complement to individual small-scale enterprises. However, relatively little research has been conducted to catalogue and assess their contribution to sustainable agrarian reform. The project is currently in mid-stream.

Water and sanitation to the rural poor: Sustainability and poverty eradication is a policy-oriented project designed to assess the Water and Sanitation programme initiated in 1994 by the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry. IRRDR is involved in consulting with communities and transferring projects to rural local government. Focusing on KwaZulu-Natal, the research has been commissioned (and fully funded for the next two years) by the Department. It will employ a participative methodology to





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involve all stakeholders in water delivery.

Southern African Regional Poverty Network (SARPAN): Designed to help put society's stock of knowledge to work more productively towards poverty reduction, SARPAN has now entered its second year of operation. It has secured funding for almost 90% of its budget of about R5 million from the British Department for International Development (DFID).

The extraordinary breadth and depth of support shown for SARPAN's initiatives will generate greater social mileage from the research community's outputs.

- Among the high-profile public events hosted in recent months have been:
- an address by the British Minister of International Development, Ms Clare Short, on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)
 - a one-day workshop on migration policy addressed and attended by the Minister of Home Affairs, Dr Mangosuthu Buthelezi
 - two workshops in Portuguese in Maputo on land policy in Mozambique and Angola and on NEPAD and the G8, attended in both instances by one or more ministers

SARPAN's website (www.sarpan.org.za) was launched in February and by April was already drawing more than 40 000 hits per

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month from its more than 6 000 known users.

Predicting urban migration: The objective of this major project, which spans three financial years, is to describe, analyse and interpret population migration patterns in South Africa in order to develop a firm basis for predicting future migration. The resulting models should become valuable policy-making and planning tools for a wide range of end users in government, the private sector and non-governmental organisations. The project is linked to parallel research also being conducted by IRRD staff on cross-border migration in southern Africa. Extensive primary data collection, focusing significantly on non-economic drivers of migration, is nearing completion.

Progress has been retarded by the failure of certain data, gathered by a number of external contractors, to meet quality control standards. The budget and time frame overshoots resulting from these remedial measures have been significant but are crucial, not just for the credibility of the model, but for conveying the earnestness of the HSRC's commitment to upholding its reputation.

Micro-finance in rural communities in southern Africa: Commissioned by the WK Kellogg Foundation (WKKF), this project has assisted WKKF's Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) by providing policy and strategy guidelines for its planned rural micro-finance initiatives. These focus on:

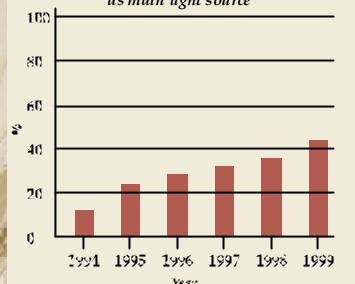
- participating in the improvement of public micro-finance policy in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and South Africa
- funding and otherwise supporting on-the-ground micro-finance operations in three IRDP pilot sites in these countries

This project was undertaken in collaboration with a number of external consultants.

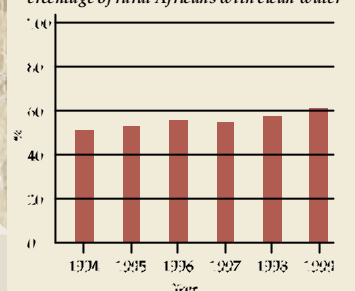
Other projects are:

- a review of housing policy and delivery for the Gauteng Housing Department with external consultants and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
- evaluations of land policy in Botswana and Malawi for the respective governments, as sub-contractors to Oxford-based consultants
- the design and implementation of strategy for the South African cotton industry for the Department of Agriculture
- the impact of HIV/AIDS on rural land tenure, land use and land administration in Kenya, Lesotho and South Africa for the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
- an assessment of the delivery of the Western Cape provincial government on its human rights obligations for the provincial government

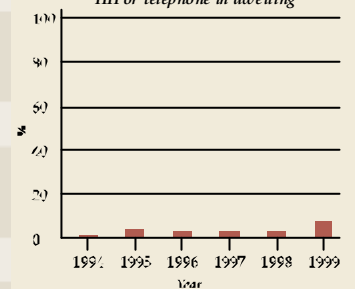
Percentage of rural Africans with electricity as main light source



percentage of rural Africans with clean water



Percentage of rural Africans with cell phones in HH or telephone in dwelling



Source:
B. Anderson¹, J. Romani¹, J. van Zyl²,
and H. Philips³, 2002
*Trends in conditions of life in South
Africa, 1994-99: Have things improved
for rural Africans?*

¹ University of Michigan, visitor to IRRD
² Research Specialist, IRRD
³ University of Pretoria



- helping local communities capitalise on indigenous knowledge of food crops with the Agricultural Research Council
- food security in South Africa - the status quo and issues for the developing country lobby at the World Summit on Sustainable Development for the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism
- an evaluation of Community Arts Centres and the development of a new policy approach for the Department of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology
- a comparative evaluation of community-based eco-tourism projects with the University of Pretoria
- mapping the expansion of South African corporates in Africa with the University of Natal

Future developments

Besides the ongoing projects, as mentioned above, future developments will also involve the restructuring and expansion both of the SARPAN secretariat and of activities to increase the network's impact and outreach to a substantially higher level. SARPAN was approached by the NEPAD secretariat to provide a full range of reporting and translating services for its four-day "Work in Progress Strategy" workshop in January 2003. The network provides the HSRC and the broader research community with a new and extraordinarily powerful means of increasing its own impact and outreach.

The building of relationships with key stakeholders, funders and research partners at home, regionally and abroad, is being actively pursued. Among the 30 or more bodies with whom collaboration has already occurred or is currently being planned (in addition to the bodies already referred to) are the Medical Research Council; the Water Research Commission; the Ministry of Planning and Finance, Mozambique; Eduardo Mondlane University, Mozambique; University of Zimbabwe; Ministry of Justice, Namibia; Namibian Economic Policy Research Unit; United Nations Development Programme; United Nations University, Belgium; and Oxfam.

In the absence of a dedicated urban renewal research programme - a priority for 2003/04 - a limited number of urban projects have also been undertaken in collaboration with staff from other HSRC research programmes and external consultants, with IRRD providing high-level management on a caretaker basis.

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