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**Effect of the land reform on land use  
pattern change in Limpopo Province, South Africa**

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## Abstract

Land reform in South Africa has struggled to get on track after 14 years of its implementation, and the aim of transferring 30% of the white owned commercial farms to the black community members is becoming increasingly unrealistic. There are many studies arguing the shortfalls of the policy and its programmes that range from the complexity of the administrative setup to the internal conflict of the beneficiary groups. Also, there are increasing evidences that land reform is having a negative impact on the agricultural sector

In order to assess the land reform programmes with special consideration of agricultural activities, an evaluation of the current land reform programmes was conducted by means of on-field study and an analysis of secondary data. On-field studies were done in Mopani District, Limpopo, to find out the actual situation of land use and farming activities on the land reform farms. A database set of the land reform farm for Limpopo province was analysed using statistical methods to compare the characteristics of the different programmes and link it to the findings from the field study.

The results show that even though there are endeavour on land with beneficiaries trying to improve the production and livelihood, there is still a long way to go in reaching the goal of poverty alleviation and increasing agricultural production. It would be advised that land reform projects focus attention on land use planning with careful consideration of their feasibility rather than the political goals