

## **The Impact of Rural Development on Poverty Reduction in a Post-Apartheid South Africa: An Ecological Discourse**

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**KEYWORDS** Economy. Agriculture. Rural. Livelihood. Sustainability. Productivity. Programme.

**ABSTRACT** One of the African National Congress (ANC) led government's promises to the electorate in all the elections since 1994 was to assist the African rural communities with infrastructure development for poverty reduction programmes. Consequently, this in return would help in the provision of sustainable livelihoods for such communities. Therefore, as part of service delivery programmes by the ANC's government, in the post-1994 period resources were directed to rural developments with the intention of reducing the level of poverty. A qualitative and quantitative design was adopted with the aim of documenting and analysing the ecological impact of rural development in South Africa. The article examines and critiques the various rural development challenges and poverty reduction strategies as key initiatives for service delivery in rural South Africa. The critique highlights the linkages that exist between rural development and service delivery. The results of the study show that despite the challenges of the ANC in providing services to the rural communities, different interventions proved to be successful.