



Diversification and Farm Household Welfare in Grasslands 'A' Farm, Kwekwe District, Zimbabwe

Nyathi Douglas¹, Beremauro Reason², Tonderai Takavarasha³ and Joram Ndlovu⁴

^{1,4}*University of KwaZulu Natal, School of Social Sciences, Durban, South Africa*

²*University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa*

³*Lupane State University, Department of Development Studies Bulawayo, Zimbabwe*

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ABSTRACT The problem of poverty and how to reduce it remains the most pressing dilemma in the rural development lexicon of most developing countries. Livelihoods diversification has been seen as one of the ways in which households seek to address their vulnerability to poverty and other shocks. This study explores the determinants and household welfare implications of livelihood diversification in newly resettled areas of Zimbabwe. Specifically, the study was done in Grasslands 'A' farm in Kwekwe District. Data was collected from 178 household heads using in-depth interviews, focus group discussions and key informants. The study reveals that market gardening, gold panning, firewood selling, casual labour and temporary employment are the major livelihood options pursued by farmers in the study area as part of their livelihood diversification attempts. Furthermore, resettled farmers have not been confined to only crop farming, rather they have embraced on-farm and off-farm livelihood activities. As diversification is a reality in newly resettled areas, there is need to support the engaged livelihoods together with crop farming. The study recommends the security of tenure through issuing of title deeds, the funding of small cooperative gardens development and expansion of markets for garden produce.