

## **Assessing Agricultural Extension Support on the Food Security Projects in the Vhembe District of Limpopo Province, South Africa**

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**ABSTRACT** The food security community projects, which were initiated by the government of the Republic of South Africa to alleviate poverty in the country, have proved unsustainable and challenging to provide satisfaction to the government in terms of the creation of jobs and alleviation of poverty. The reason why these food security projects are unsustainable is inherently due to a lack of support from the extension officers in the region. The objective of this study was to assess the support that the agricultural extension is providing to the food security projects in the Vhembe district of Limpopo province, South Africa. Qualitative data were collected with semi-structured interviews that were administered to respondents from the food security projects as well as to one extension officer who was assigned to work in the food security projects in the district. In this study, focus group discussions were carried out to 15 respondents from 55 functional food security projects in the Vhembe district. Structured interviews were also carried out with 5 extension officers in the district who are working directly with food security projects. The respondents have agreed that they receive extension support most often, however, it is presumed that the results of this paper would lead to informed decisions by the spheres of government in terms of extension support programmes and help craft more viable strategies for supporting the food security projects so that they become more sustainable.