**Dataset 3**

**Responses from key informant interviews**

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| **Key informant** | **Organisation** | **Responses** |
| Key informant 1 | WCDoA | The WC DoA focus on water infrastructure development for smallholder farmers in Genadendal area. Assistance with electrical water pumps, water meters, for farmers that use irrigation from the Zonderend river and the maintenance of water canals, pipe lines and dams (zink and soil). Other assistance include the procurement of water rights from the Zonderend river.  Some farmers (especially farmers farming on gardening plots in Genadendal area) believe that they do not need to pay for the use of water for agricultural production, because of the perception that water is free from the mountain. The annual payment for the water used is problematic, because no water meters are installed and farmers utilising more land pay the same amount of money oppose to farmers utilising smaller pieces of land, because the water bill are equally divided amongst the smallholder farmers in the Genadendal area.  Only farmers that pay for the utilisation of water must have the right to use the water. Water Management Structure need to be implemented in order to monitor the use and the payment of water rights. The installation of electrical infrastructure in order to install electrical pumps and water meters for all the farmers utilising the water from the Zonderend River need to be implemented.  The Zonderend river supply water to the farmers in Genadendal. The run-off water from the mountains supply water to irrigation dams in and around Genadendal area.  Genadendal is situated in a winter rainfall area and during the raining season irrigation water is harvested in irrigation dams for utilisation during summer production season. The Zonderend river and the rivers that flow from the mountains in the Genadendal area normally run through the summer season therefore water remains available throughout the year. Water used during the day from the irrigation dams are restored during the night flow.  Especially the smallholder farmers that use water from the Zonderend River (that are flowing from the Theewaterskloof Dam) were severely impacted by the drought. Up to 80% of summer water use restrictions were imposed. Some farmers have scaled down on normal vegetable production and other farmers have to transport water to their animals.  The Genadendal area is a licenced water user and is regulated by the Zonderend Water Users Association. The Genadendal organisations are guided by the Water Users Association.  The Genadendal Farmers Association in cooperation with the Genadendal Transformation Committee is promoting the co-operation among smallholder farmers.  Yes to some degree. The local community structures work closely with Zonderend Water and BGCMA, however the coherence with the local municipality need improvement.  No. The water use from plot or garden owners within the residential areas is difficult to control and manage, including infrastructural maintenance.  No. There is no water meters installed. Yes. The quantity of irrigation water available and irrigation charges from the Zonderend River is known.  Local committees collect water fees and pay it over to water authorities.  There is limited control over plot or gardeners within the Genadendal area.  Yes. Committee members attend Water Users Association meetings and Conferences and provide feedback to communities.  Committee members work on a voluntary basis and therefore do not have the resources to maintain water related use processes.  The lack of financial resources are limiting such engagements |
| Key informant 2 | WCDoA | Water Sources - Rivers, earth dams and sink dams  Enough Water (yes). The average or normal rainfall of Genadendal are adequate to provide water for the year.  One of the main water sources, the Zonderend River flows from the Theewaterskloof Dam in Villiersdorp. The drought of 2015 – 2018 resulted in the Theewaterskloof Dam running dry as a result the Zonderend River also stop. The vegetable farmers have to stop and producing at less 10% of their capacity because of limited water available from the Zonderend River. The livestock farmers have to transport water for their livestock  We are not directly involved in governance and management of irrigation water in Genadendal. We support the farmers of Genadendal with development and to a certain degree with maintenance of irrigation infrastructure (dams, canals and pipelines).  Irrigation water governance and management in Genadendal is the responsibility of few individuals in Genadendal. The bigger farming community especially those residing outside Genadendal for example Bereaville are not involved in the governance and management of irrigation water in Genadendal. Decisions made by a few individuals are binding or forced down on to the rest of the farmers.  The smaller towns around Genadendal need to have their own water management structures that report back to the main structure in Genadendal.  The water management structures around Genadendal must be capacitated with their own roles and responsibilities and to make decisions  Genadendal are registered with the Zonderend Water User Association (ZWUA) that are governed by the Water Act  Only a few people are involved in water management  Genadendal farmers work with the water authorities in the area  Only two persons available to handle all water related issues  Some information such as irrigation charges is readily available  Only two persons available to do collections of water fees  One of the biggest shortcomings (no rules, mechanisms and processes to solve irrigation water related disputes)  Capacity building reside with the few individuals  Management need to improve  Need more empowerment  Decisions are made by a few  No formal communication channels available |
| Key informant 3 | BGCMA | Roles and responsibilities - Water use management, water resources planning, water allocation, and water resource protection.  Target group regarding water allocation - Historical disadvantaged individuals/Resource poor farmer/ emerging farmers  Most emerging farmers do not come forth to share their problems on water use challenges which make it difficult for me to know exactly as to what is their challenge. I strive to reach to them as it is part of my duty to reach out to this target group.  I provide support in terms of assisting with water use application by expediting the process where I can |
| Key informant 4 | BGCMA | The BGCMA have the Water Allocation Reform (WAR) plan that get to be updated yearly. My division is to do capacity building, roadshow and go to the stakeholders to link them with the relevant people or organisation for them to get assistance. We provide contact to the emerging farmers of the water user specialist in their area as they are the one who have the technical background on what the emerging farmers are looking for. In terms of the WAR plan we report on the quarterly bases to WAR champions that are situated in George office. There are the ones responsible for updating the WAR plan for the BGCMA. We also intervene in situations where other department do not want to listen or have an eager to assist the emerging farmers. We bring that connection to get emerging farmers to be involved.  We engage with all type of farmers that need assistance in water allocation, from commercial and emerging farmers. Our most priority are the emerging farmer’s. Most of the farmers we work with are not part of the Water User Association (WUA)  We engage with both farmers that are part of the WUA and those that are not. The problem with the farmers that are not part of the WUA is that they don’t speak up in the meeting or rather not show up at all. Emerging farmers that are part of the WUA it’s easy for them to attend the meeting and voice their problem. Meeting assist in situation where one farmers do not have water to get to know about who need assistant from what. This is where farmers get to know if one of the neighbouring farmers have access water that they can give away or not. Whereas the emerging farmers they get deprive for this information because they do not show up in the meetings. One farmers who is sitting in the meeting can make water available for one who do not have. It’s during this meeting where farmers get to hear if they are extra water or not. We are busy with the awareness to make the information available. It makes information goes very quick as others will hear about it through a word of mouth.  There is not extra water to allocate at the moment to the target group. Emerging farmers do not know the procedure of allocating water. Whenever the emerging farmers see a farrow running always think of putting a pipe and pump straight to his farm. They do not understand that the water cannot just be collected through a pipe. That the biggest challenge we have been facing so far. There is also a problem with communal land, emerging farmers fail to get lease agreement that are longer enough and the DoA cannot hep them. Emerging farmers are not organised themselves, they will be having the same problem coming from the same area but when they approach organisation like municipality they will go individual. It will be difficult for them to be assisted individually, the officials will just brush them off. We always encourage them to work together so that they can get assistance quickly. It easier to assist farmers that are bringing complains to the organisation as a group than as an individual.  From our unit we only link the farmers with the relevant people. We link all types of farmers either commercial or emerging farmers. Other unit they do feasibility study especially for farmers who do not have water. The water user officials will see what category of water they can qualify for. They also negotiate with other farmers who have water to see if they can assist those who do not have water. We also facilitate for the farmers to apply for finance which is on the financial assistant policy from the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), The capital cost that is applies from the Department of Agriculture (DoA to get water from the point source to the farm. The other finance that we facilitate is for operation and maintenance cost which is applicable to famers that are part of Water User Association (WUA). There is operation and maintenance levy they need to pay to apply for that fund. The money can be used to maintain all types of infrastructure that need to be maintained. We also facilitate assessment study of the water quality and write up the business plans for the farmers. When we go out to do the awareness we tell the emerging famers of all the opportunity that are out there and we just assist in facilitating them.  We have built a very good relationship, but there are individual that we are still struggling with. We had a problem with DRDLR, we try to make efforts to work with and for them to see us. They are now trying to fit to the part. Their understanding of land and water relationship was different. They were working individually as they are certain roadshow that we tried to invite them and they never showed up.  All the application that we have received requesting finance we have sent them to DWS. This year DWS did not have money to fund any application we have sent to them. |
| Key informant 5 | BGCMA | We are the recommending authority. We process the application and the DWS make a decision. The board of the BGCMA also approve grant policy project, support water infrastructure mostly linking to awareness and education for gardening. All this project makes water available. There is also a subsidy for infrastructure where we assist farmers to apply for the funding.  The target group is emerging farmers that are part of the WUA and those that are not.  The emerging farmers that are part of WUA are strictly speaking and they are better off because they have infrastructure around them to pump water from the dam while other farmers have to develop their own infrastructure which turn to be problem. The WUA are not everywhere, other areas do not have WUA. Even if you want the farmers in the WUA and those that are not to work together, if the distance is 200km away it’s not going to be impossible. You can’t construct a pipe that will cost you 20million to supply water to the farmers that are far from the water point.  The biggest challenge for the country is the support to the emerging farmer is the support on the ground level and the development of proper infrastructure. There are many story around water allocation. Emerging farmer can be given water, but there is a need for a pump and electricity from Eskom to pump water to irrigate the land. As an organisation we do not provide that. The emerging farmers end up having water flowing in the river but not having the electricity to irrigate. Emerging farmers need to understand that the allocation of water from the National Water Act is not the same as water in the land, the meaning is different. Water can be allocated from the resources, but the problems is the extraction of that water from the source to irrigate. Most emerging farmers complain that they do not have water. In most cases that is not the problem, the water might be underground or just flowing in the river, and the problem is the infrastructure to extract the water.  The coordination of organisation and the structuring of all the department, there is huge needs in the whole country and lack of resources to adequately support and some of the policies in other department it is a challenge to work with.  We only play a legislative role of allocating water in terms of the law. This does not necessary mean that there is real water. There must be development for a farmers to get water. There is infrastructure and all that needed for the water to get to the farm and irrigate. We will get the subsidy but the money is limited. Those subsidy they stop at a certain time and they are not continuous until the person is able to stand on their own.  There are many people who do not agree with the decision for some of the water that is taken away from them from V&V. Four years ago there are cases that were taken to the water tribunal for appeal but we haven’t head of the outcome. There has not been any re- allocation of water that has been done in the BGCMA.  Other government department have limited funding. We are not always successful. When we come to the allocation of water, it’s important to have access to the land for one to be allocated water, if a person do not have land it difficult the access water.  The area is winter rainfall area, when it rains the water goes straight into the river. When its summer there is no water to irrigate. It doesn’t help to allocate water to someone who do not have a dam to store water because during summer season that person will struggle to irrigate and also not having a pump. Water can allocated to an emerging farmer, the challenge is how to utilise the water. BGCMA is limited in that area. There is a need for a government support so that they can actually utilise the water. This part is not easy since there is lack of funds and coordination between government departments. |
| Key informant 6 | BGCMA | I am involved in the Overberg area to assist in the assessment of different authorisation for emerging farmer from Schedule One, General Authorisation, to facilitate so that they can access water. On our performance agreement, I also assist emerging farmers and resource poor farmers with technical application so that they can able to access water. We offer technical assessment to the warded and technical assessment on the application once it is submitted. We try to prioritise application for the emerging farmers. We also assist if the emerging farmers has the property and there is a need for EIA or rezoning. Though it’s not about water authorisation but we get the farmers into contact with the right people. We expedite the application to give favourable comments if they can be any complication. For example if the farmer has to deal with Department of Agriculture (DoA), we assist them with the map for water resource. I assisted a guy who wanted to do chicken farm but he didn’t know where to put his borehole I assist in drawing the outlay of the property.  There are different target groups. We don’t specifically target a certain group in allocating the water. We priotise the allocation based on the application we receive, we can target the group but not receive any application from them. The general group is the emerging farmers they receive the highest priority, the municipality, commercial farmers with BEE component and groups of emerging farmers. Our target group is the commercial farmers with a BEE components and the emerging farmers. We do not receive much of the application from the emerging farmer’s especially for the license. With emerging farmers we receive much application for General Authorisation (GA). This is because the scale that emerging farmers are doing their agricultural activities is not in the commercial it more on the sustainable and small agriculture. So they application can be accommodated in the GA.  The level of engagement with emerging farmers that are not part of the Water User association (WUA) is more than the one that are part of the WUA. Emerging farmer in the WUA there are more informed and they know of all the process and they know where to go and they have representative in the WUA that speak for them. The farmers in the WUA are more organised, like the emerging farmers Hexvalley and Robertson. We still engage them intensively but it is less. The emerging famers that are not in the WUA it’s a adhoc. We get referral from the Department of Agriculture (DoA) or the municipality or from different individual. What we do is a roadshow in a form of motivation so that emerging farmers can come to us and know what we do and how we can assist them.  We provide technical support in drafting report, maps and recommendation to other people, and also give legal advice as to what is the best processes, if farmers want to apply for the funding we put them into contact with the relevant people to apply for the funding. In the BGCMA offices (Ms Elmarie) will make connection with DWS funding. We also facilitate the discussion between the emerging farmers, Department of Agriculture (DoA) and the municipality because not all of the emerging famers has to apply for water user license though the BGCMA but through the DoA. This is to see if the property need rezoning. We facilitate for everyone to understand the priority in terms of the project. |
| Key informant 7 | BGCMA | My roles is to assess water use, if an applicant is a resource poor farmers I assist by submitting the requirement on the hydrology and the ecology of the study area where a resources poor farmers is applying for a license.  I work with everyone who uses water not only emerging farmers. When it comes to emerging famers, the history matters most, there are certain procedures that are followed.  I engage with every person who uses water. The engagement is about the process that needs to be followed by the applicant. If the processes are not followed by the applicant, the application will fall out for water to be approved. If what the applicant needs makes sense and they need water we assist and they will receive much preference.  Emerging farmers do not follow the procedure. They do not answer the phone when you do follow-up with them. They will just submit the application with an ID copy and when you need them after you can’t find them anymore. To the emerging farmers, applying for a license it’s a matter of submitting ID copy and that’s all. Famers are not passionate with following the procedure. Necessary information are not submitted e.g. Water right, lease agreement and the owner of the property should be known. Emerging farmers are tedious with those process. They get bored when you request much information. We treat every application based on merits or evidence submitted. We only request what is needed. |
| Key informant 8 | DWS | The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) refers to the Genadendal “smallholder/Emerging farmers” as Resource poor farmers (RPF). DWS can provide RPFs with access to water via Permissible water use.  DWS is the custodian of the country’s water and responsible for water use authorisation which inevitably means that the Genadendal RPFs (water users) or potential water users have to enter the bureaucratic arena to access water for irrigation as per Section 22 of the NWA, 1998. i.e. The latter is often a complicated administrative process.  One of the great gaps in water management and a significant challenge that have hampered the progressive realisation of equity goals’ are the weak internal coordination and integration and poor external alignment with all reform programmes. RPFs in the Genadendal area would have it no different.  This is frustrating for RPFs as they have to navigate the various departments to access resources and water. Hence even though government acknowledged that coordination, integration and alignment with other reform programmes is crucial to effectively and efficiently allocate and reallocate water it has proven to be difficult to achieve or maintain and hampers the transformation agenda. RPFs often have to provide proof of water use and authorisation thereof when applying to access funding via the DRDLR or DAFF.  One of the main issues for RPFs is surely accessing water when most of the water is allocated to commercial farmers under Existing Lawful Use (ELU) (please see your question 1). Classification as an existing lawful user means that the water use will have to be validated i.e. the current use has to be accurately quantified, and verified, i.e. checking whether the use was lawful in terms of the previous Water Act of 1956. Following this the DWS would then discern the quantity of water availability for reallocation. This requires the DWS/CMA to embark on a technical and highly skilled exercise and further relying on existing lawful users to offer information. Due to lack of resources consultants are used and it becomes an extremely costly exercise. Currently many commercial farmers are still using water based on use rights that existed in terms of the old water regime. This situation is untenable as it implies that reallocation takes a back seat and thus redress is neglected or not enjoying attention. Existing lawful users’ are maintaining their continued use until such time as their water use is verified and validated, they therefore also remain the most productive users effectively excluding the RPFs from having a fair and equitable chance to access water use as they fiercely contest sharing of water resources under the premise that their ELU will be impacted upon. In my opinion this greatly pacifies the ability of any RPF to grow provided of course that they have access to land.  Solutions to water governance challenges - Simply put, the implementation of compulsory licencing (ensuring fair adaptation of ELUs), prioritise water use authorization applications of RPFs, adequate funding to ensure the relevant assistance with access to water for RPFs (this would also include assisting commercial farmers that genuinely want to assist) , the strategic and political will and agreements between Government departments to take a co-ordinated approach w.r.t assisting the RPFs with their irrigation endeavour’s and compliant and socially responsible WMIs that can guide and genuinely show an holistically inclusive interest in supporting RPFs in their area of jurisdiction.  These mechanisms are failing due to inadequate / red taped support from government departments. Political interference.  BGCMA often use innovative mechanism to ensure this as they are less “red taped”. |