

## **Can land reform improve livelihoods of smallholder beneficiaries? A case study of two land reform initiatives**

The apartheid regime of South Africa created vast inequalities in terms of its spatial concepts and distribution of land. Attempting to address this imbalance, the post-apartheid government developed new legislation, policies and structures. This study investigates the government's land reform programme, with particular emphasis on the role of the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, how their policies of land redistribution, land tenure and land restitution been implemented and what level of success they have achieved in terms of improving the livelihoods of the beneficiaries of such programmes. Using case studies of land reform projects in the Eastern Cape it examines the effects of the land reform programme in two rural villages in the Amatole District Municipality situated in the Eastern Cape. The findings illustrate that although the livelihoods have improved there is still a substantial amount of progress that needs to be made within the two villages to sustain this success.

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