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ON FARMS

ezifama



BUILDING WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP



CPLO ROUND TABLE

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- **“Women and Land: Working the land and not owning it, why?”**

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- ❖ Commercial agriculture: roots in slavery under colonialism
- ❖ System of “subsidised” labour supply to farms under apartheid
- ❖ Prevailing paternalism (even today)
- ❖ Historically: workers “tied” to farm (workers inherited between generations)
- ❖ Very low mobility among farm workers
- ❖ Formal contracts with male permanent workers
- ❖ Less than 5% workers unionised (mostly permanent, male workers)



WHAT ABOUT WOMEN ON FARMS?

- Represent temporary casual labour force
- Occupy lower paying jobs
- Access to housing through men
- Gender-based violence pervasive
- Legacy of “tot system” lives on
- Largely unionised and unorganised

POST APARTHEID DEVELOPMENTS

- SA signed on to WTO Agreement on Agriculture in 1994
- Deregulation: opening of markets
- Rand strengthening, Droughts, Power Cuts, Fires
- Dramatic increase in exports – targeting EU
- Ineffective land reform programme – less than 10% transferred to date, largely unsuccessful
- Land ownership patterns virtually unchanged in race and gender terms
- More women workers than ever before
- First labour & tenure laws for farm workers introduced post 1994 – backlash severe



IMPACT ON WOMEN

- Contract conversions: from permanent & male to casual/seasonal & female
- More tenuous working conditions for women
- Increase in mechanization – “skilled” workers
- Systematic displacement from farms (evictions)
- Increased mobility of workers: between farms, districts, provinces and countries
- Increase in migrant workers from EC and neighboring countries
- Increase informal settlements
- Growing food insecurity – low and erratic income
- Farmer backlash to laws introduced
- Women carrying brunt of unfair labour and trade regimes

POST 1994 REFORM

- **Labour Legislation**

- Sectorial Determination 13

- **Land Reform**

- PLAS
- 50/50 Strengthening the Relative Rights
- - Agriparks



LAND REFORM

- Redistribution
- Tenure Reform
- Restitution



REDISTRIBUTION

- “The land shall be shared among those who work it”
- SA exported 99.9 million litres in 1996
- SA exported 412 million litres in 2015
- Farm workers in 1996 - 750 000
- Farmworkers in 2015 - 250 000
- % of land used, are the same (consolidated)
- Increase in export and resultant revenue, decrease in workforce

REDISTRIBUTION

- Farm Worker Share equity and joint ownerships
- 50/50 - Strengthening the Relative Rights of People Working the Land
- an updated version share equity schemes
- worker would have needed to work for 10 or more years
- increasing men's power and control over household resources
- few women directly benefited from farm equity schemes and other land reform initiatives
- One household, One hectare

TENURE LAWS

- Extension of Security of Tenure Act (ESTA)
- (6) A person or community whose tenure of land is legally insecure as a result of past racially discriminatory laws or practices is entitled, to the extent provided by an Act of Parliament, either to tenure which is legally secure or to comparable redress.
- Intent disconnected from the reality
- One million people evicted in the first 10 years of democracy – NKUZI study

RESTITUTION

- 1913



WHY DON'T WOMEN OWN LAND

- No collated data on women's land rights and access
- Laws and policy contain acknowledge gender inequalities, lack to give effect to it
- Capacity of state institutions
- Bureaucratic processes
- Lack of information dissemination
- Power Imbalances
- Women's access to land negotiated through male partner
- Household access and control rest with men
- Availability of land and its price
- State land – no clear plan

WHAT WOMEN WANT

- Moratorium on evictions
- Agrarian Reform – not only land reform
 - Change in land holding patterns
 - Change in production methods
 - Real commitment to transform Class, Race and Gender dynamics in rural areas
 - Secure land access earmarked for women
 - Different land sizes for different people
 - One Woman, One Hectare
 - Proper institutional support and resources that are sensitive to the needs and position of rural women