



South Africa's Food Security Development Challenges in the Era of Globalisation, Affirmative Action and Land Reform

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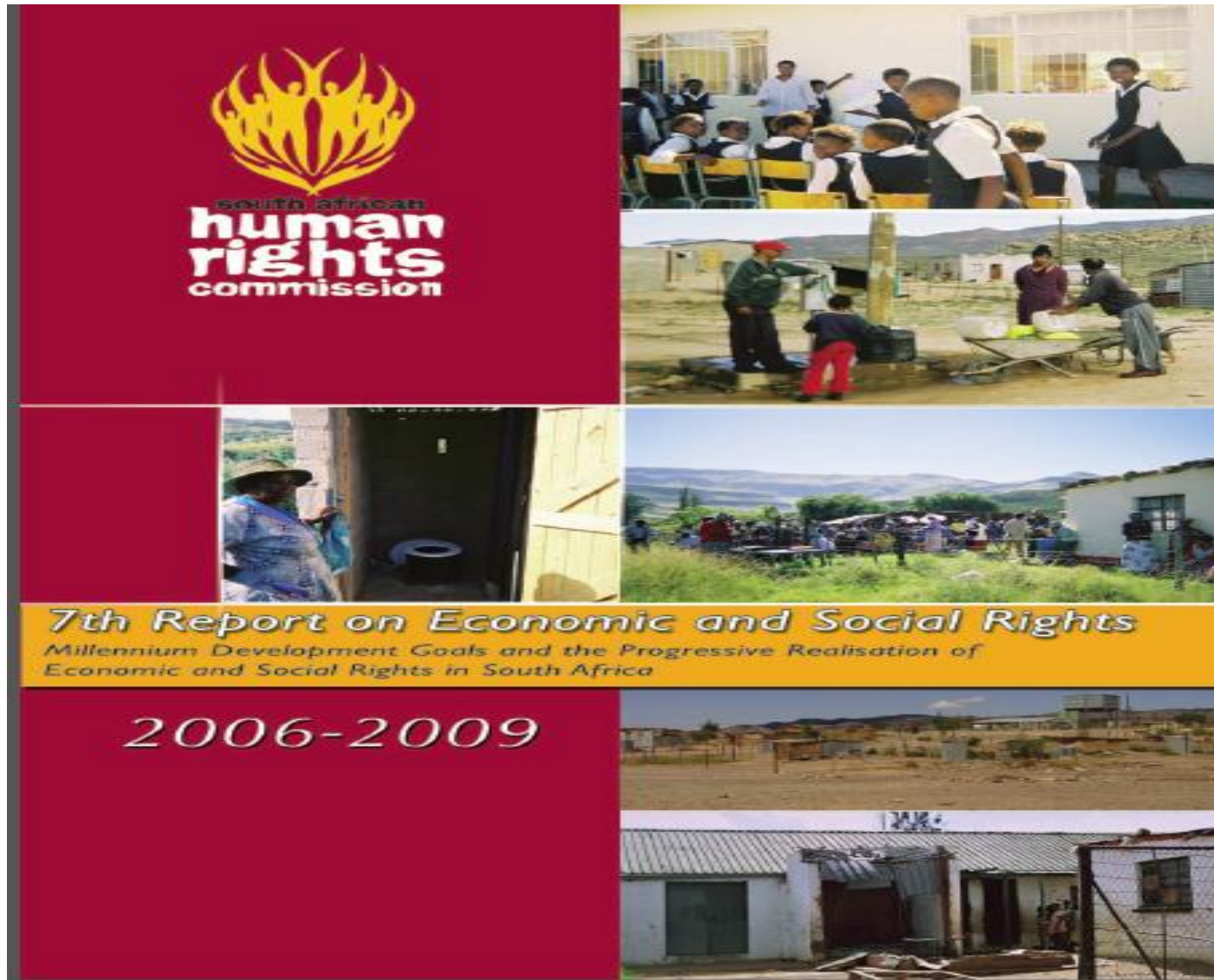
Food Security Development and its Challenges

- Food security is enshrined in the Constitution of South Africa (1996), article 27 and 28(1)(c), which indicate the right of every South African citizen to sufficient food, water and social security.

- The current food security challenges in South Africa consist of two dimensions:
 - i. How food production is short of national food requirements due to misty government policies.
 - ii. How to eliminate uneven distribution, inequality and poverty amongst households that is made apparent by lack of purchasing power, poor nutritional status and weak institutional support networks and disaster management systems.

- In trying to address these myriads problems and for political reasons, affirmative action and land reform are constitutionally introduced, but in the age of contradictory globalisation and climate change management (adaptation and mitigation) with less emphasis on gender crisis.

Food Security Development and its Challenges



Affirmative Action, Land Reform and Food Security

- Land has played a key role in the history of South Africa; it is a source of political (in)stability and development.
- Food security or the lack of it is premised within a context of land scarcity because the best arable land is already under cultivation and because agricultural practices have led to the degradation of significant amounts of farmland due to unsustainable agricultural
- Climate change adds immensely to the loss of arable land in South Africa due to new practices introduced by governments and companies as a form of addressing food insecurity. Practices, hence, desertification, deforestation, salinization and soil erosion.
- At the same time, the rising demand for non-food products (feed, biofuel and fibre) is putting additional pressure on agricultural production and on land use.
- Evidence has shown that local and national land rights systems remain weak as a result of globalisation and scramble for the state's resources by large scale foreign and local multinationals and private individuals. This has led to extinction of customary land rights, except for some part of rural areas where land are less productive, but in the hand of local chiefs.

Affirmative Action Land Reform and Food Security... CONT..

- Land reform is the belief that redistribution of farmland, together with other rural development programs, can make a significant contribution to poverty alleviation. Progress for reform had been slow since 1994; very little land had been restored or redistributed. Targets were revised forcing date for redistributing 30% of farm land to extend to 2014. This was not achieved because of myriads of crises such as WTO norms cemented by economic globalisation, the state Constitution and property rights together with willing-buyer willing-seller principle.
- Laws and programs aiming at protecting the tenure rights of farm workers and labour tenants have been ineffective, evictions have continued and more people have lost access to rural land in this way than have gained it through land reform. At the end of apartheid in 1994, almost 90% of the land was owned by whites, who constituted only 10% of the population. Less than 7% of land has been redistributed so far and the ANC government has pushed back their target of redistributing one third of land from 2014 to 2025.
- Land has multiple values for the rural dwellers and for women in particular. In rural communities, access to land and control over the use of it creates personal autonomy and raises the status of individual, both within the household and wider community.
- Gender dimension of food security needs to be highlighted as a cross cutting issue in all dimensions, given the role played by women towards food security for their household.

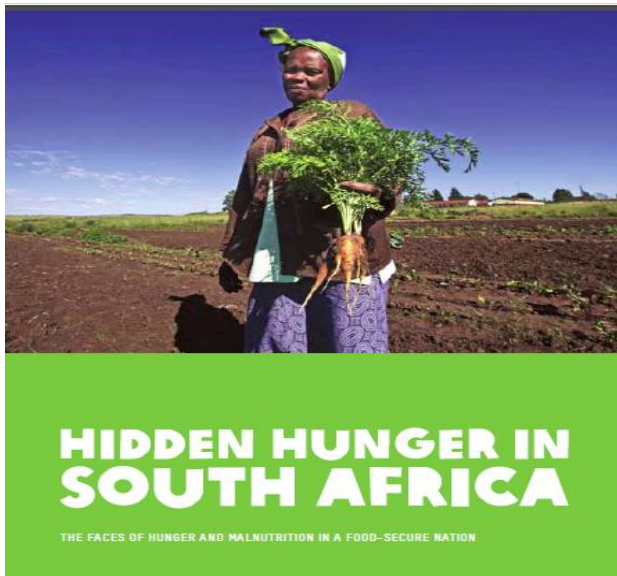
Gender Question and Food Insecurity

- Women are key role players in the production of food and in ensuring that every individual in the household have access to food and consume nutritious food required for healthy lifestyle.
- The South African women are obstructed from exercising full control over land which explains how this increases women's marginality and dependency.



Gender Question and Food Insecurity

- Chiefs and informal local communities still exercise power and authority in spite of relevant international protocols on women empowerment that are domesticated by the ANC government
- If women are allowed to hold land outside of the authority of such traditional leaders, their social control functions will be undermined. Most conservative rural men would believe this could lead to the collapse of the inherited traditional structures, which may lead to violence.
- South African women are severely affected by lack of security in food with about a quarter of females in the country without adequate levels of nutrition and vitamins.



Gender Question and Food Insecurity

- South Africa's unemployment rate is amongst the highest in the world with an expanded unemployment rate of 40% and with women bearing a higher unemployment burden (46%) compared with men (34%). In some rural areas unemployment is as high as 70% compared to 46% nationally. This implies that rural poor and unemployed rural and urban are most vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity.
- People with disabilities have a high nutritional requirement and most of them do not have people that are looking after them to ensure that their needs are met and this creates vulnerability to food insecurity.
- HIV/AIDS raises the nutritional requirements of a household as people living with the disease have a higher than normal nutritional requirement to support their degenerated immune system. In addition, the nutritional requirements of pregnant women increase to support the development and growth of the baby. The impacts of HIV/AIDS are worse for pregnant women. About 28% of pregnant women in 2009 were living with HIV/AIDS.



- Given that women take most of the burden of care in the context of HIV/AIDS, they are more negatively affected by food insecurity than other groups in households and communities

Globalisation, climate change and food (in)security

- Climate change is considered as posing the greatest threat to agriculture and food security in the 21st century particularly in many of the agriculture – based countries as source of employment and food supply such as South Africa. Agriculture is already under stress as a result of population increase, water scarcity, industrialization and urbanization, competition over resources (food versus biofuel) use, degradation of resources and insufficient public spending for rural infrastructure.
- South Africa is considered a food secure nation but numbers of people facing hunger can be estimated at 13 million in total. With employment levels at 25% nationally over 15 million receive social grants which result in them not having enough to access to nutritious food.
- May 2008 and April 2015 bore witness to the most horrific scenes of xenophobic attacks, though the reason for this are not absolutely clear, but it is not too far from food insecurity as employment opportunities are not in sight for the teeming population of South Africa evidence from poverty, deprivation, marginalisation and social exclusion caused by inherited political arrangement and fuelled by climate change impacts.
- Reduced South Africa to a mining country as evidence in Mpumanlanga Province preference for coal mining against food production remains a serious challenge to food security.
- Negative impacts of mining as an agent of climate change is another problem the country is facing. Not only is that groundwater being polluted but also availability of the same as constitutional right is in question. South Africa faces a number of critical environmental challenges ranging from land degradation to the obliteration of finite resources.

SA Mine Highlighting trends in the South African mining industry.



Multinational companies and food security

- Maize is one of the most important staple foods in South Africa not only because of the volumes that South Africa produces, but mealie meal is part of the lives of people in the country. South Africa has largest collection of genetically modified (GM) maize production in Africa. However, GM seed market is controlled by Monsanto, Pioneer, Pannar and Syngenta among others.
- The production of South Africa staple food will entirely be controlled by multinationals as against biosafety. These multinationals are involved in licensing and cross licensing agreements and merger have massive impact on the prices of food and the varieties that farmers can plant. Consumers will have a reduced choice because 75% of the market is now GM origin and there is a belief that this move will phase out small scale farmers.
- Losing maize germ plasm to a multinational would be critical and potentially devastating for consumers, agriculture, emerging farmers and for the future of maize in South Africa. The merger will see hybrid seeds dominating the market and squeezing out urban planting and seeding of maize on family plots and in marginalised rural areas.
- South African regulatory authorities adopted GM food crops without addressing its negative impacts on human and animal health such as allergic reactions, damage to internal organs, antibiotic resistance, horizontal gene-transfer. The impacts of the toxic pesticides and herbicides on flora and fauna left unaddressed.

Multinational companies and food security



DuPont is eyeing South Africa's maize market and has plans to lay its hands on our genetic material with a merger that is being appealed at the Competition Tribunal. The proposed merger would see its subsidiary Pioneer Hi-Breed acquiring SA family-owned seed company, Pannar. But activists say this is much more than a merger, and is a move that could affect the future of SA's most important staple food and all who depend on it. By MANDY DE WAAL.

Multinational companies and food security

- Farmers had control over their seeds from time immemorial. It is traditional right for farmers to save their seed for replanting or to exchange with other farmers. However GMO seed patents effectively put an end to these age old practices. The control and ownership of seeds (GM maize, soya and cotton) is effectively in the hands of oligopolistic multinationals such as Monsanto, Syngenta and Pioneer. This undermines farmers' rights and rights to good health by South Africans.
- Monsanto has contaminated food with GM even if the labelling states GM free. The act of contaminating food is deliberate campaign by the American biotechnology industry. The latest tactic is to insist that African countries who want help in combating HIV/AIDS epidemic must accept GM food in the form of humanitarian assistance as displayed by some American philanthropists (Bill & Belinda Gates, Rockefeller). The same was passed by the US Congress as a subtle means of concretising aid politics.

Conclusion

- Land reform and food security are inseparable issues that should be addressed holistically to avoid future political revolution, but the prospective farmers from the previously disadvantaged groups should undergo training on the nitty-gritty of farming methods and after harvest marketing.
- Under the Bill of Rights of the 1996 Constitution, specifically, article 25, disallow government intervention in private property except if it is for public goods and to ensure affirmative action.
- Because the political elite in the post-apartheid South Africa are equally benefiting from the existing *status quo*, praxis panacea to the land reform and food security will remain a mirage for the foreseeable future.
- Gender issue in land reform calls for interrogation as women in the rural areas that care for the vulnerable such as children, the sick and the old age are excluded from having access to land for food cultivation, except at a very small scale that is unsustainable.
- Multinational seed companies take the lion share of agriculture industry profit through their manipulative price system. They receive government support through Act, Act 15 of 1997 which is overseen by the Department of Agriculture . There is a need for organic agriculture.
- For any meaningful development in the country and for the interest of good health, GMOs should be discouraged and wild food and seed that are known in the country from the time immemorial should be promoted for health and sustainability concerns.

Thank you

